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WEEKLY

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SPECIAL Interviews Ante MILICIC, Alex TOBIN and the CARDOZO brothers



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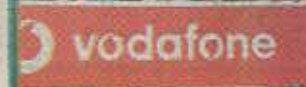


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By Mark Stavroulakis

Glory sign Mori - Again



Damian Mori has been snapped up by
Perth Glory on a short-term deal

The NSL's top ever marksman Damian who scored 77 goals in 112 games in his previous stint with the Glory has rejoined the club.

Not on a permanent deal but as a short-term replacement for Neil Taggart who left the club prior to the start of the A-League season due to injury.

Adelaide United were chasing Mori at one stage but his current club, South Australian Premier League side Adelaide City were not willing to let their ace striker go.

Now with the Premier League all but finished, City have said yes to the Glory after

Adelaide United snapped up Fernando Rech as their 20th squad member last week (read more on page 19).

Perth Glory technical director Mich d'Avray has been chasing down the striker for quite some time now.

"It would be remiss of Glory if we did not look at a player of Mori's calibre if he became available," D'Avray told the 'West Australian'.

Despite being player-coach of Adelaide City, the 34-year-old striker has still managed 23 goals in just 25 games for his side this season, City have also reached the SA grand final.



KAZU MIURA FOR SYDNEY

Sydney FC are close to signing Japanese legend Kazu Miura ahead of the Club World Championship.

Sydney coach Pierre Littbarski has been chasing the former Genoa star since taking over the Australian club's reigns and is now close to clinching the veteran's signature.

Kazu would arrive for a four-match guest stint at Sydney before the A-League club travels to Japan for the CWC.

The move would boost local interest in Sydney FC, particularly with no Japanese clubs involved in the tournament. Kazu blazed a trail when he first signed for Genoa, becoming a one-man marketing machine and remains a huge pull for Japanese fans.

The veteran was happy to play out his days in Japan and it's understood only his close relationship with Littbarski has him considering another foreign adventure.

With the midfielder in Sydney's starting XI, CWC sources say the Aussie club can be guaranteed a near capacity crowd for their opening playoff clash with Costa Rica's Deportivo Saprissa. Tickets for



Japanese legend Kazu Miura on the books for Sydney FC?

that game are a staggering 7000 Yen (\$75).

The winner of that match faces Liverpool with tickets set at 18000 Yen (\$180) each.

Attacking midfielder Kazu is currently playing in J-League 2 with Littbarski's old club, Yokohama FC, after leaving top-flight outfit Vissel Kobe this season.

A-League chiefs have already given the deal the thumbs up, with guest players allowed to sign outside the 20-man roster limit subject to quality checks.

BEAUCHAMP RELISHING FRESH CHALLENGES

By Marc Fox

Timing is everything in football and Central Coast Mariner Michael Beauchamp plans to take any chances thrown his way with both hands.

The 24-year-old central defender has steadily grown in stature since coming through the national league ranks at Marconi alongside Ange Costanzo. A regular in the Parramatta Power sides of 2003 and 2004, Beauchamp signed off by means of a Grand Final appearance with a brief taste of international football with the under-23s thrown in. So far, 2005 has scaled even greater heights.

The Sydney-born stopper has become the fulcrum of the Mariners' defence under Lawrie McKinna, an ever-present in the side that pushed Sydney all the way in May's Club World Championship qualifying final before going one step further in the Pre-Season Cup in August.

Only Beauchamp wasn't there to join in the celebrations with his Mariners team-mates following their defeat of Perth in the season's curtain-raiser, he was in Holland training with the Socceroos in Guus Hiddink's first get-together as Australian national team coach. For Beauchamp, a player certainly not short on the ability required to make the step up to international football, you sense all that's lacking is the belief.

"It was a very unexpected call-up," Beauchamp told Australian and British Soccer Weekly. "It sort of came out of the blue. We had only just arrived back from Melbourne and the next day I was on a plane going over to Holland."

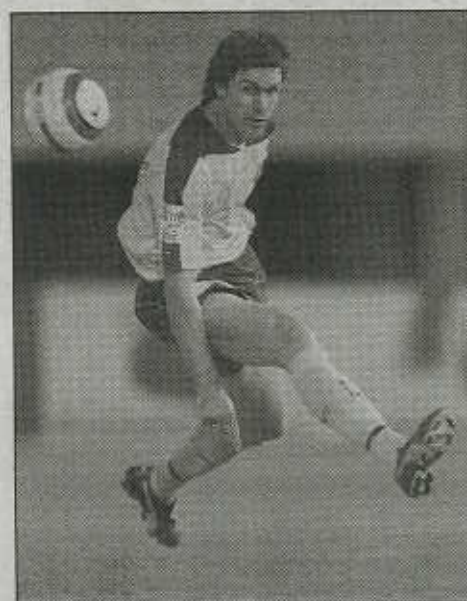
"Initially I was very, very nervous going across there but when I arrived, all the boys made me very welcome, they came up and shook my hand. It was great to be amongst all the big boys."

When Hiddink named his squad for the Solomon Islands qualifiers days after the end of the camp, Beauchamp had retained his place in the train-on squad alongside fellow A-League defender Iain Fyfe and again spent the week with the Socceroos. With train-on members expected to be ready to graduate to the full squad at

a moment's notice, any injuries or loss of form to Hiddink's first-choice players could lead to an instant call-up.

Whether Beauchamp would openly admit it or not, now is an opportune time for an in-form central defender to be banging on the door of the starting XI. Hiddink used Tony Vidmar, Lucas Neill and Tony Popovic as a central three in the home leg against the Solomonians before testing a 4-4-2 with Jon McKain and Lucas Neill at its defensive heart in Honiara. In honesty, nobody covered themselves in glory over the two ties with none of the aforementioned guaranteed a starting spot against the South Americans in November.

Indeed, last week Vidmar picked up a hamstring injury playing for NAC Breda in the Dutch league which will keep him out for several weeks meaning the former Rangers and Middlesbrough player could miss next



Michael Beauchamp is slowly developing
into one of Australia's finest defenders

month's friendly with Jamaica. Meanwhile, Popovic has struggled to make even the starting line-up at English Championship club Crystal Palace this season and Craig Moore has not yet debuted for Newcastle United following injury. With Ljubo Milicevic out of favour with the Dutch coach despite appearing for FC Thun in their first-ever Champions League encounter with Arsenal last week, Beauchamp's chances of following Sasho Petrovski into the full squad must be high.

Marking players of the calibre of Brian Deane, Dwight Yorke and Ante Milicic in the opening rounds will also do him no harm whatsoever. Beauchamp admits that the marquee recruits of the new competition are giving him the kind of challenges he thrives, the push he needs to drive him to the next level. The manner in which he handled the physical threat of Deane won many admirers although coping with the 192cm ex-English international was never going to be child's play.

"He's a big boy," Beauchamp concedes with a chuckle. "On TV he looks big but up close he's even bigger. He likes to throw himself around, you know. That was a great challenge for me personally."

"I wasn't intimidated by him but it was new to me to go up against someone that big and strong."

Despite his deprecation, Beauchamp stands only a whisker shorter than Deane. He might not look it but at 191cm he's as tall as Sydney's Mark Rudan and Queensland's Josh McCloughan - though arguably more agile. Beauchamp doesn't just rely on his height and possesses the intelligence to drop off attackers and look for different angles from which to defend. His sound positional sense belies the fact he played further forward in his junior years.

So what is there left to improve? "I suppose talking," Beauchamp admits. "Tobes [Alex Tobin, development manager], Fergie [Ian Ferguson, assistant coach] and Lawrie (McKinna) try to push me to talk a lot more in my game because generally my personal life is a bit quieter."

"Everyone's got their own jobs and any bit of talking to help them out is always good."



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2006 Premier Youth League (Boys Grade 13 to 18)

Grade 13	Monday 10th October 2005	6pm
	Thursday 13th October 2005	6pm
	Sunday 16th October 2005	9am
Grade 14	Monday 10th October 2005	7.30pm
	Thursday 13th October 2005	7.30pm
	Sunday 16th October 2005	10.30am
Grade 15	Sunday 9th October 2005	9am
	Wednesday 12th October 2005	6pm
	Saturday 15th October 2005	9am
Grade 16	Sunday 9th October 2005	10.30am
	Tuesday 11th October 2005	6pm
	Saturday 15th October 2005	10.30am
Grade 18	Sunday 9th October 2005	12 noon
	Tuesday 11th October 2005	7.30pm
	Saturday 15th October 2005	12 noon

All trials to be held at Marconi Training fields 2 & 3
For further information please contact Mr. Neville Orlando.
0419 212 182

Players trialling are requested to bring along their playing
boots and shin pads.

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It just gets better and better for Adelaide

Adelaide United coach John Kosmina isn't getting carried away with his table-topping charges.

United are clear at the top of the A-League after Saturday night's win at Perth Glory and told The Advertiser:

"It is way too early to make statements or get carried away.

"It is good for our confidence that we've started as well as we have and it has given the players a stronger sense of self-belief.

"If we're top of the table at the end of the season, as we are now, I'll be happy with that." Chinese international Shengqing Qu scored his first goal for the club and Kossie added: "He showed a lot of quality for the time he was on the park.

"His match fitness is still way below where it should be, but he's a clever player."

It gets better for United, with Brazilian Fernando Rech to be paraded in front of the local media this week as the club's latest signing. United also have Trinidad &

Tobago international Kevin Nelson as part of their training squad, itching to be part of the action.

Kosmina's tactics have worked to a tee so far in the A-League.

Their unbeatable record at Hindmarsh Stadium have them as one grounds most clubs hate to visit these days.

Marshallled by skipper Ross Aloisi, the hard working midfielder has been playing some of his best football to date.

Adelaide take on the Central Coast Mariners this weekend which has been billed as the match of the round.

Williams left out of Joeys squad

A management cock-up has left Australia U17 shorn of their best player for this month's World Championship in Peru.

David Williams was selected in the original squad, but was barred from the tournament over a FIFA ruling that denies any player who has competed in the U20 World Championship to play in the U17 equivalent. Queensland striker Williams was a non-playing member of Australia's U20 campaign in Holland this winter.

This is the second management blunder this year after Peterborough midfielder Shane Huke was barred from playing in the U20 World Cup after it was discovered he did not have an Australian passport.

Coach Aris Postecoglou's U17s lost their opening World Cup game 1-0 to Turkey on Friday night.

BANKSTOWN SUMMER SOCCER

A sensational Summer of Soccer is coming to the Crest Soccer Fields in the Bankstown area in October.

Sanctioned by the Bankstown District Amateur Football Association (BDAFA), the competition will be open to all teams from U/6s through to Senior Mens and Ladies divisions, along with Mixed competitions.

A great way to STAY in shape and prepare perfectly for next Season's Winter competitions.



For more information call

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Junior Head Coach

The person we are seeking will be working with pre-determined standards and policies of the K.K.S.C., to develop, oversee, and co-ordinate the coaching function for all coaches and players.

Applicants must be appropriately qualified and can apply in writing with accompanying resume to

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FRASER PARK FOOTBALL CLUB Season 2006 Youth League Players Trials



Fraser Park FC is a well established and successful Soccer NSW State League which has embarked on an exciting five (5) year plan to become the leader in Youth Football Development in NSW. Implementing a very ambitious plan, we want to offer a pathway to all aspiring players from grass roots through to the highest level in Australia and Overseas.

Trial Dates

13's and 14's	Mondays	10th, 17th, 24th October	6.00pm — 7.30pm
	Wednesdays	12th, 19th, 26th October	6.00pm — 7.30pm
	Saturdays	15th, 22nd, 29th October	9.30am — 11.00am
15's and 16's	Mondays	10th, 17th, 24th October	7.00pm — 8.30pm
	Wednesdays	12th, 19th, 26th October	7.00pm — 8.30pm
	Saturdays	15th, 22nd, 29th October	11.00am — 12.30pm
18's	Tuesdays	11th, 18th, 25th October	6.00pm — 8.00pm
	Thursdays	13th, 20th, 27th October	6.00pm — 8.00pm
	Saturdays	15th, 22nd, 29th October	1.15pm — 3.15pm

Please arrive 30 minutes before starting times to register. All trials at Fraser Park FC home ground, 100 Marrickville Rd, Marrickville. For information contact Youth League Convener on 0407 227 462.

Fraser Park Outdoor Futsal (5-a-side) Tournament

Fraser Park Futsal is running a tournament commencing October and is calling for interested players to form teams and play on our recently built OUTDOOR Futsal courts. Enjoy the excitement of Futsal with the feel of street football on our outdoor courts.

Catering for all age groups and with attractive registration costs, we offer great facilities and ample on site parking.

For more information or to register your team please contact Fraser Park Futsal Director on **0415 363 071** or email on fraserfutsal@hotmail.com

"Don't Miss Out"

Cardozo brothers in Kiwi switch

By Mark Stavroulakis

The well known Cardozo brothers being of course Pablo and Richie have been snapped up by Kiwi First Division outfit Waitakere United for the up and coming New Zealand Premier League starting in October.

The dynamic duo have made the trek to New Zealand's Premier League and departed Sydney on Monday after missing out on playing in the A-League.

Waitakere have just started Pre-season training and it will be the first time the two have had the chance to play in the same team.

Both brothers did generate interests from various A-League clubs but nothing was seen as concrete, thus leaving them with no option but to look elsewhere.

"I had no choice really, I couldn't stick around here any longer as I needed to play football regularly again and the only option was to look abroad.

"I was thinking of staying put but what for? when there were no leagues running.

"The only league that's about

to start is the NSW Premier League, and that kick's off in January," said Pablo.

The 32-year-old striker played a prominent role in the old

National League with West Adelaide, Sydney Olympic and Parramatta Power where he made over 300 appearances and scored over 100 goals.

A number of A-League sides were in contact with 'Pabs' during the off-season but nothing eventuated.

"There was talk between a few

clubs but it didn't go any further. "Right now I am concentrating in keeping match fit and continuing my football career."

His contract with the Kiwi club is rather easy going as if any interests build from either Australia or in Asia then Pablo could well pursue that.

"The transfer market re-opens in January so we'll see then but until that period, I'm happy playing in New Zealand and staying fit.

"It's going to be good training with a team again as training on your own for a large period of time isn't the best option that I've had lately."

Pablo had a short stint in the Victorian Premier League with the Melbourne Knights before training on his own.

Meanwhile younger brother Richie (19) is looking at this move as chance to get noticed.

The former U17 Australian Joeys striker spent the past year in the NSW Premier League with the Parramatta Eagles where he was easily one of the club's best players.

He too had a few interests in

the A-League but like brother Pablo, he was left looking elsewhere.

Waitakere United coach Steve Cain has seen the signings of both brothers as a good start for their new season.

It is expected that the Cardozo brothers will play alongside each other up-front which is a story within itself.

The Cardozo brothers aren't the only players currently fielding various options in furthering their careers after not signing in the A-League.

A number of Australian players have had to make the trek to Europe in search of a contract.

The Kiwi league has also been a destination that many Australian players have researched which could be a new place of interest for the many that failed to make Australia's elite league.

The need for a Division Two competition has again been raised as the fact that there were a number of players club-less after the FFA announced that each A-League side could only have 20 players in their roster.



Cardozo brothers Pablo (left) and Richie have been snapped up by NZ Premier League side Waitakere United

Rampaging Recchia delivering the goods

By Mark Stavroulakis

If you had asked anyone who knew Carl Recchia prior to the start of the A-League season, people would have nodded their heads, but after some brilliant performances in the first few rounds of the competition, he's certainly a contender for rookie of the year.

The Melbourne Victory kept a keen interest in the 20-year-old after they snapped him up as one of their final players for the season.

Coach Ernie Merrick was impressed with his hard work ethic and skill in midfield that earned him a call-up the big leagues.

Plucked from the Victorian Premier League's Fawkner Blues, Recchia has certainly satisfied so far.

"I've been really happy with my performances to date, I think I've started off strongly and have gotten a bit more confidence as each game has passed.



Melbourne Victory's unsung hero so far industrious midfielder Carl Recchia

"I'm learning every day as a footballer and at the moment it's up to me in keeping my consistent form in tact."

The step up from the local Victorian Premier League to the A-League in the youngsters terms has been gigantic but one he's thoroughly enjoyed so far.

"It's definitely a big step for me from the local league. Instead of training three times a week we train twice each day in a professional environment with great facilities.

"The game speeds are a lot quicker, more experienced and the 90 minutes is really full-on."

Olympic Park will no doubt serve as a hostile cauldron for the Victory and after their successful eighteen thousand plus spectators in the opening match against the Glory, Carl believes there's more to come from the Melbourne faithful.

"It was a huge buzz playing in front of a packed house; the feeling was unreal as the crowd lifted as every time we got the ball.

"I think we did enough to win the crowd back to our next home match this weekend against the Newcastle Jets but we have to keep a winning attitude going, we're playing flowing attacking football and that in itself is great for a spectator to watch."

The Melbourne also spent a year with South Melbourne during their final term in the National League and gained a bit of experience there before branching off to the VPL in the off-season of 2004.

One of Recchia's first ever assignments he had in his debut for the Victory was facing Sydney FC's marquee man and former Manchester United star Dwight Yorke during round 1.

Not only did Carl face the Trinidad &

Tobago star, but he collided head on with the 'great one', leaving the 'Bling' striker pinned to the ground.

"I didn't see him coming and we both collided in what I think was the first minute of the match.

"In terms of playing my first game against him it was brilliant.

"I was watching him on television not too long ago and to have gone toe to toe with him was truly a great experience that I'll never forget."

Penning a one-year deal with the club, it's been heads down bums up for the former South Melbourne star who also believes that the squad has what it takes to finish in the top four.

"Everyone knows that we have the youngest A-League side and in that proves a great asset for the future of the club.

"But we also have experienced guys like Muscat, Archie, Clayes, Kitzbichler, Vlahos and Danny Allsopp so we're not lacking in that department either.

"The fact that we have a good mixture gives us every reason to battle for a top four spot at the end of the year."

One such player that has made a huge impact already in Melbourne in not only the team but the state itself has been Captain courageous Kevin Muscat.

"Muskie's a true leader; he works hard and alerts you to anything going wrong straight away.

"He's been to the top and knows what it's like and it's great for players like myself that I'm able to learn a few things off him.

"When training's about though I'm always hoping that I'm on his side and not playing against him (laughs)."

No doubt we'll be hearing and seeing more of Victory's number 12 this season.

QANTAS Matildas head to the Americas

The Qantas Matildas will embark on a three match tour of the USA next month playing international matches against the USA and Mexico, as the team continues its preparations for the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup qualifying tournament to be held next year.

Australia will confront reigning Olympic champions USA in Fullerton, California, then play a second international against Mexico in El Paso, Texas three days later, before a third tour match against an opponent yet to be confirmed.

The USA, who are currently ranked second in the world, have long been regarded as one of the premier nations in Women's

football, winning the FIFA Women's World Cup in 1999 and the gold medal at the 2004 Olympic Games.

The two nations most recently met in last year's Olympics with the Qantas Matildas securing a memorable 1-1 draw on the way to a quarter final berth. It was a historic result for Australia being the first occasion the team had avoided defeat against the USA in 17 encounters.

The Qantas Matildas toured Mexico last year as part of their Olympic Games preparation recording a win and a loss in the two matches. The only other encounter between the two nations saw a 2-0 victory for Australia in 2003.

"This is another important preparatory event for the team as we continue our build-up towards next year's qualifiers," said Qantas Matildas coach Tom Sermanni.

"It is part of our game plan to compete against high-quality opposition wherever possible and this tour allows us to do exactly that. The players will also benefit by having time together as a squad."

It will be a return to the United States for Sermanni who was assistant coach for the San Jose CyberRays when they won the inaugural WUSA title in 2001 and was head coach of the New York Power in the final season of the WUSA in 2003.



Qantas Matildas star Joanne Peters will be on shown in the U.S. next month

Australia v USA
Sunday 16 October, 3pm
(Monday 17 October, 8am AET)
Fullerton, California
Australia v Mexico
Wednesday 19 October, kick-off
TBC
El Paso, Texas
Third Match TBC
Saturday 22 October

Lucas Neill refuses to forget Manly

BLACKBURN Rovers and Socceroo star Lucas Neill last week launched a unique Scholarship Scheme with his junior club Manly United FC.

The 'Lucas Neill Scholarship Scheme' will sponsor up to two Manly United Youth League players per year the opportunity to travel to England and train with a Youth Academy.

The scholarships will cater for players aged between 14 and 16 years and will not be limited to Neill's current English Premier League club Blackburn Rovers.

Manly United plays in the senior NSW Premier League and the junior NSW Premier Youth League, the highest competition in NSW, and arguably Australia, for 13-18 year-olds.

Neill, who had the northern beaches Club's newly built grand stand named in his honour last year, was keen to put something back into the Club that gave him so many fond memories from the early stages of his playing career.

"I had some great years at Cromer Park with Manly and I wanted to give something back," the international utility defender said.



Lucas Neill: Australia's utility defender

"Through these scholarships, young Elite players who are good enough will have the opportunity to follow their dream and have a go at making it as a professional."

"I'm in it for the long haul at Manly and have grand plans for the Club and this is one positive step along that path to becoming one of the best clubs in NSW."

Neill's sponsor Nike will support the Scheme by providing training equipment to

the MUFC Youth League teams and kit for the successful scholarship holders for their trip abroad.

Grand Slam International's David Flaskas, who manages Neill, will work on securing further corporate partners as the fledgling scheme is developed. Flaskas delivered the FIFA world cup and Ian Thorpe for Manly United FC's highly successful season launch last year prior to their inaugural season-in the



Phil Moss: Manly's Senior Coach

senior NSW Premier League.

MUFC Head Coach Phil Moss, who will co-ordinate the Lucas Neill Scholarship Scheme at Cromer Park along with the Club's head Youth coach Gary McGinnis and a panel of high-profile coaches from outside the Club, said it was a massive coup for the players and Manly-Warringah football.

"Lucas is a genuine bloke and from a young lad at Manly and the AIS to the heights of the English Premier League and international football with the Soccerroos, his personality hasn't changed a bit - he hasn't forgotten his roots," Moss said.

"This is a fantastic way for a quality player earning a good living out of the game to put something back and it will boost our drawing power with young Elite footballers and further put Manly United FC on the map."

"Players shouldn't need outside motivation when they take the park, but this certainly will add something extra for all of our players to strive for."

"We are very proud to call Lucas our own and this proves he is proud of where he comes from too," Moss concluded.

There will be an official launch in November when Neill returns for the crucial World Cup qualifiers against the fifth-placed South American nation.



2006 Women's Super League ▶▶ Trial Dates ◀◀

Under 12 & 14s	Sunday 9th October 2005	9.30am
	Wednesday 12th October 2005	5.30pm
	Sunday 16th October 2005	9.30am
Under 16s	Sunday 9th October 2005	11am
	Wednesday 12th October 2005	7pm
	Sunday 16th October 2005	11am
First Grade and Grade 21 (Reserves)	Sunday 23rd October 2005	9.30am
	Sunday 30th October 2005	9.30am

All trials to be held at Marconi Training fields 3

For further information please contact Mr. Sam Papa
0425 346 014

Players trialling are requested to bring along their playing boots and shin pads.



A.P.I.A. LEICHHARDT TIGERS FOOTBALL CLUB INC

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Victorian Premier League Final

Cavaliers crowned Champs

Green Gully 2 Heidelberg United 0

By Nick Dennis

Green Gully celebrated their 50th Anniversary Year in the finest way possible, with a 2-0 victory in the Vodafone Premier League Grand Final over Heidelberg on Sunday evening.

Club stalwart Brandon Vassallo, who won the Jimmy Rooney Medal for best player on the ground, scored Gully's first goal early in the second half, finishing off a classic counter-attacking move.

Then with less than ten minutes remaining, substitute striker Peter Hader sealed both the game and the Championship with a memorable individual goal.

In front of a slightly disappointing crowd of just over 3,700 fans at Melbourne's Olympic Stadium, both teams look to attack from the kick-off. In the opening minute Green Gully midfielder Joey Rajher let fly with a powerful swerving shot from 25 metres that went just wide, and five minutes later his Heidelberg counterpart Eric Vassiliadis put a dangerous cross into the box that Gully's Roderigo Vargas had to head away for a corner.

The first save of the game came in the 9th minute.

A Rajher free-kick found an unmarked Zoran Markovski at the far post, but from a tight angle the big central defender's header was well blocked by Heidelberg keeper Lou Acevski.

Heidelberg had gone into the game with a few players a little underdone and carrying niggling injuries. The club's gamble with the fitness of exciting young winger Yusuf failed to come off when he had to be replaced after just fifteen minutes.

Despite this early blow, Heidelberg had had slightly the better of play for much of the first half.

Ex-Melbourne Knights and South Melbourne midfielder Nick Sabljak was the dominant player on the field, looking dangerous with his every touch.

He brought out a good save from Gully keeper Pasi Schwalger in the 15th minute, then a few minutes later had another firmly-struck shot, but this one went just wide of goal.

On the half hour mark, a Sabljak free-kick into the box was well-struck by Yusuf's substitute, Veton Korcarevski, but was just off-target.

The best attack of the half came in the 33rd minute, when Green Gully showed some exciting one-touch football. The ball was passed between half a dozen Cavaliers players from one end of the field to the other, with Vassallo's finish only denied by a fine Acevski save.

Another Sabljak free-kick into the box created problems for Green Gully a couple of minutes later. Keeper Schwalger came rushing out to punch the ball, but only as far as a waiting Bill Damianos.

However Damianos' long-range header from the edge of the box was comfortably saved by Schwalger. Green Gully immediately counter-attacked, and midfielder Jeff Fleming was denied by another good stop from Acevski.

The remainder of the first half was something of a stalemate, the only further shot a well-worked free-kick from Rajher that went wide of the target.

The second half was just five minutes old when Green Gully finally got the breakthrough.

In a typical Green Gully text-book display of counter-attacking football, striker Nick Tsaltas broke into space just inside his half, and fed the ball out wide to Lubo Lapsansky. With Gully players streaming downfield, Lapsansky fired a pin-point cross to the edge of the box. It fell perfectly for Vassallo who in space and one-on-one with the keeper made no mistake to slot the ball past Acevski.

Rajher almost finished off the game just minutes later, but his powerful volley from the edge of the box went just over the bar.

Heidelberg, a goal down in the title decider, responded accordingly.

Green Gully keeper Pasi Schwalger was forced into action three times in quick succession. On the first occasion, he courageously dived at the ball to cut out a dangerous Vassiliadis chip before striker Nick Marinos could connect. Three minutes later

Schwalger fumbled a headed shot from Korcarevski, but gathered at the second attempt. Then a minute later he showed safe hands to stop Tony Ouliaris' close range shot.

Heidelberg were enjoying their best spell of the game, and came close to equalising in the 58th minute. Sabljak set up Damianos, but the midfielder's shot was disappointingly weak.

After this flurry of Heidelberg shots, Green Gully seemed to be jolted into action, and went searching for a two-goal cushion. Two chances in two minutes fell to Tsaltas, opportunities with which he might normally have done better.

On the first occasion he did the hard work to beat his defender, but put his shot over the bar. Then just three minutes later he again found himself one-on-one with the keeper, but Acevski positioned himself well to save.

In the 65th minute, Green Gully again attacked on the break, and a long cross from Andy Vargas on the wing was almost spectacularly volleyed home by Dragi Nastevski but just went wide.

By this stage Heidelberg appeared to be flagging, frustrated by continuously running into the brick wall that was the Green Gully defence. All fight was knocked out of the Bergers in the 83rd minute when Hader wrong-footed his defender with some trickery, then finished with a powerful strike that gave Acevski no chance in goal.

Heidelberg tried to rally in the short time remaining, but against the tightest defence in the League it was always a forlorn task.

The Cavaliers were able to comfortably hold on to win the Championship - their fourth title in seven years.

The result was a triumph for Green Gully's coach Ian Dobson, his sixth Premier League championship. "It was very pleasing because we've been up against it all year long", he said after the game.

"We've been at the top with the pressure, and people have written us off as well. But it just showed what character the team has got. It's the club's fiftieth anniversary, and from a fairy-tale story angle you couldn't have written a better script".

Heidelberg's coach, Phil Stubbins, said, "We probably let ourselves down a little bit on the day. We had a few



Green Gully Cavaliers celebrate their VPL win

chances early on, but at the end of the day they thoroughly deserved to win. They were much stronger for the ninety minutes." The recently-

announced Coach of the Year could at least look back on a season of many achievements.

"No regrets, it's been a fan-

tastic season for us. Winning the First Division and then getting to the Grand Final after finishing second - we can't really ask for much

more than that. It would have been nice to actually come and win it today, but Green Gully is a strong team and they deserved it fully."

Green Gully Cavaliers

Pasi Schwalger (6): A couple of fumbles gave his team some anxious moments, but offset by some solid saves.

Zoran Markovski (7): Strong in the air and gave the Heidelberg forwards little space.

Dean Yak (7): Formed a solid defensive pillar with Markovski, giving Heidelberg few opportunities.

Dragi Nastevski (7): Did a fine job marshalling the defence and distributed the ball well from the back.

Roderigo Vargas (7): Tight in defence and was also able to combine well with the attackers when coming forward.

Josip Rajher (7): Dangerous in attack, and had a great ongoing one-on-one battle with his opposite number Eric Vassiliadis.

Jeffrey Fleming (7): The New Zealand-born defensive midfielder again did his job, restricting the dangerous Heidelberg creative players.

Lubo Lapsansky (8): Set up the first goal with a cross of pure class, capping off an excellent all-round game.

Andy Vargas (7): Looked dangerous on the break, and had the Heidelberg defence backpedalling on numerous occasions.

Brandon Vassallo (8): Deserving winner of the Jimmy Rooney Medal. A real handful for the Heidelberg central defence, and showed clinical finishing skills scoring his goal.

Nick Tsaltas (6): Found plenty of space and caused problems, but his finishing was a little disappointing.

Substitutes

Peter Hader (7): Came on for 25 minutes, and scored a great individual goal.

Andrew Marth (-): The veteran only came on for the final ten minutes to play a holding role in midfield.

Heidelberg United

Lou Acevski (7): Not to blame for either goal, and made several fine saves to keep his team in it.

Fausto De Amicis (6): Played in the last line of defence throughout the game, where his influence on the game was limited.

Daniel Jones (5): Has had a great season, but struggled a little against the Green Gully forwards.

Robert Liparoti (6): The Green Gully forwards avoided his strengths by attacking from deep and out wide; consequently he wasn't his usual imposing self in defence.

Isoyan Erdogan (6): A very quiet game by his standards. Switched from right-back to a right midfield role in the second half, but couldn't add anything to the attack.

Eric Vassiliadis (7): The Heidelberg captain looked dangerous on the right but his forwards couldn't take advantage.

Tony Ouliaris (7): Despite playing with a niggling hamstring injury, the tireless central midfielder never stopped working.

Bill Dumianos (5): The Heidelberg playmaker was anonymous for long periods - one of those days where nothing he tried seemed to come off.

Nick Sabljak (8): In the first half was the most creative player on the ground, and unlucky not to be rewarded with a goal.

Yusuf Yusuf (-): Only lasted fifteen minutes before being forced from the field with an injury recurrence.

Nick Marinos (5): Well held by the Green Gully defence who gave him zero scoring opportunities.

Substitutes

Veton Korcarevski (6): Worked hard up-front to get himself into a couple of goal-scoring positions, but was unable to capitalise.

Brendan Beni (6): Added a bit of spark to the attack in the short time he was on.

Theo Papoutsis (-): Only had five minutes playing time.



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BRISBANE
PremierLeague

Home ground advantage for Rochedale

By Glenn Davis

Rochedale Rovers will be in the drivers' seat with a home ground advantage at Underwood Park next weekend to make the Brisbane premier league grand final after a hard fought nil all-draw in their first leg semi-final clash with Pine Rivers at Wendy Alison Park on Saturday night.

And after the other first leg semi-final Palm Beach has its nose ahead of Brisbane Strikers after two own goals highlighted a torrid 1-all draw at Perry Park.

The semi final games are based on the aggregate scores across the two games but should the scores be level after normal time of the second leg, away goals will count as double to decide the winner.

Extra time followed by a penalty shootout will only be played if both sides away goals are equal.

Pine Rivers' coach Clayton Koch is prepared to take the under-dog status going into the second leg but

so to is Rochedale coach Keiran Cooper.

While Pine Rivers need only to score a goal to force Rochedale to net twice, it's a position Koch believes favours the home side.

"Rochedale are at home next week so they are in the driving seat but if we can defend well like in the last few games then we could pinch one and they will have to get two, so it's a positive result for us tonight," Koch said.

Although both sides were unable to break a scoreless deadlock, both teams went agonisingly close to gaining an advantage.

Pine Rivers welcomed the return of skipper Joel Hale for the match after he lodged an appeal against a recent send-off.

The appeal will have a major bearing on the crucial second leg with the hearing to be decided before Saturday's vital match.

Pine Rivers looked marginally the better of the two sides in the opening stanza as both teams entertained the crowd with end to end football.

But it was the Rochedale who came closest to opening the scoring through Kieran Galloway, who struck a long range shot against the crossbar.

Fraser Robinson also shaved the post with an effort as both sides went even into the half time break scoreless.

Solid backlines were a highlight for both sides as they scrambled well to keep the match scoreless.

Pine Rivers keeper Troy Reed had a great game and pulled off some superb saves to keep his side in the match with Hale, Michael Sciardi, Kenny Hurford and Chris Hagell also strong.

For Rochedale, Matt Mundy, Galloway and Joel Drewek were able to contain the mobile Rivers forward line.

The second half was also a tight battle with neither side getting any real ascendancy until late in the match when Rochedale almost pinched an away goal when Joel Dreweks shot shaved the post in the dying minutes.

Koch was pleased with his side's performance although it failed to capitalise on their

home ground advantage.

"Goal mouth scrambles, shots against the post, it had everything but was a case of neither side able to deliver that killer punch," Koch said.

"We will now just look to making sure everyone is fit this week and we will keep training upbeat."

At Perry Park, Palm Beach coach Karl Herdle was not completely satisfied with his sides performance.

"It wasn't up to our usual standard but it was the most physical game we have been in all year," Herdle said.

"It was very competitive out there and was probably a fair result with both sides cancelling each other out."

"However, the away goal is good and I think we can do the job at home next week."

The match was an enthralling spectacle but to have two own goals was certainly odd.

It was a fast and furious encounter between two committed sides who have been two of the best side's all season.

The Strikers were quickly on the attack and Greg DiLosa and Michael Giallourakis put some early pressure on the Palm Beach defence before Matt Hilton set up David Dodd for the visitors first real chance but his shot went narrowly wide.

Kane Swift in the Palm Beach goals then denied Giallourakis with a fine save to keep things even.

With both midfields basically cancelling each other out and not giving each other any room to move the game

became very physical.

The second half was more of the same with both sides determined to attack but defences won out on the night.

It took until the 69th minute for a breakthrough and it came to the Strikers when a Stewart Drinkeld shot was deflected past Swift.

However five minutes later, a free kick played long into the box deflected off a Strikers head and gave Palm Beach the equaliser.

For the Strikers, Hall and Stu McLaren looked as dependable as ever and DiLosa was always dangerous while Michael Zullo caused some real problems when he ran at defenders.

Their midfield of Damian Waugh and Drinkeld did well to shut down Palm Beach playmaker Brad Ditton who was unable to exert his usual influence on the game.

Palm Beach were best served by Ditton, Bobby Bruce and Jared Lowe while Russell Miner showed with his twenty minute spell as a substitute that he may be a major influence next week.

At Underwood Park, an even start turned controversial on the half hour mark after Rochedale's Kieran Galloway handled the ball as it was crossing the goal line and was sent from the field.

However Rochedale keeper Mario Aparicio saved the resultant penalty.

Both sides hit the woodwork in the first half and had their share of chances but were locked at half time as

Rovers faced a difficult second half with just ten men.

Koji Kanagawa broke the deadlock for Rivers in the 65th minute after a defensive error handed Kanagawa the ball, his clinical finish past Mario Aparicio in goals giving Rivers a 1-0 lead.

Rochedale drew level five minutes later through Greg Thomas who showed great control to bring the ball

down onto his chest and follow through with a volley past the keeper.

Rochedale Rovers then threw plenty of men forward in the dying stages of the match, knowing they must score or face elimination but were unable to break the Rivers scrambling defence as the Strathpine based club will now contest their third consecutive grand final.

Joeys suffer narrow defeat

Australia has gone down to a heart-breaking 1-0 defeat at the hands of European champions Turkey in their opening Group B clash at the FIFA U17 World Championships in Peru.

The Joeys looked like they would come away with a draw after battling away against their highly-rated opponent, but with six minutes left Nuri Sahin fired home from 20 yards to give his side victory.

While Turkey deserved all three points with striker Tevfik Kose coming close on a number of occasions, the Joeys never gave in and were well served in particular by goalkeeper Alex Vrteski and midfield pair Kaz Patafta and debutant Scott Jamieson.

The European side started slowly to get on top, with Tevfik thwarted three times by Vrteski. Australia's reply came through the hard-working Robbie Kruse, who could have done better than chip the ball straight at the Turkey goalkeeper, but just before half-time Turkey came close again with Caner Erkin's effort clipping the crossbar.

Australia started the second half well, but Turkey again came back with Tevfik's close-range effort blocked by Vrteski, before at the other end Kruse smacked a shot from distance that was tipped over the crossbar. The Joeys also saw an effort from Jamieson go well over, before Turkey took total control, with Tevfik heading poorly wide from seven yards when unmarked.

A minute later Vrteski did well to block Deniz Yilmaz's effort from 12 yards, and although Deniz reacted well to the loose ball, he could only side-foot over the bar.

Turkey continued to press forward and it was no surprise when Nuri swivelled to hit a shot which Vrteski got a hand to, but was unable to prevent crossing the line, to give his side the lead.

"Despite the result we showed today that we are capable of some good play against elite opposition," coach Ange Postecoglou said afterwards.

"I thought we played well overall, in the first half especially, but perhaps lacked a cutting edge up front."

"All the players are extremely disappointed at the moment of course given that we were so close to getting something from the match."

Australia: Alex Vrteski; Jamie Cumming, David D'Apuzzo (Matthew Park 69'), Wade Oostendorp, Matthew Spiranic, Joel Allwright, Robbie Kruse (Daniel Ireland 61'), Kaz Patafta (c), Nathan Burns, Scott Jamieson, Leigh Broxham (Matthew Mullen 83')

Australia's next game in Group B is against Mexico, who kicked off the tournament with a 2-0 win over Uruguay due to ABSW deadlines we were unable to print the final result

Up-coming match
-Uruguay-22nd September



WESTFIELDS SPORTS



congratulates

Nathan Burns

Scott Jamieson

Wade Oostendorp

Jason Trifiro



on their selection in the
Australian U17 Joeys
for the
Youth World Cup, Peru



Bolton keen on Australian academy?

English Premier League outfit Bolton Wanderers could be looking at laying foundations of an academy here in Australia.

Chris Sculley, the club's main man in the developing program has landed in Sydney as part of his plans in reviewing the young talent here in NSW.

One of his stops will be viewing some of the quality youngsters currently on show at the Bobby Charlton Soccer Academy. In what could become an exciting coup for the Wanderers, establishing themselves somewhere in NSW could be a great way of finding new young Australian talent.

One such youngster who has attracted interests already from Spanish giants Barcelona and was last year on SBS' The World Game show, Panos Armenakas could be a target.

Regarded as one of the most talented 7-year-olds in this country, a full story on the whiz kid will be appearing in ABSW very soon, but his attention has certainly been heard across Europe.

Kosmina on cloud nine

Throw out the form guides people as this year's A-League has really been unpredictable.

In all honesty, I really didn't see Adelaide jump out as favourites to be leading the competition but to John Kosmina's credit, he's done a marvellous job.

After interviewing skipper Ross Aloisi, Michael Valkanis, Aaron Goulding and Lucas Pantelis prior to the start of the A-League, all South Australian players told me that they were the team to watch out for.

Look at them now, firing in all cylinders with 10 points, nine goals, one goal conceded and no losses, they are the form side so far.

The Jets have awoken

Who woke up the one-time sleepy Jets? Something must have happened two weeks ago in the city of Newcastle as Richard Money's men have certainly turned it around for the better in their last 2 performances.

Beating Sydney FC and then smashing the Knights on Sunday, without Ante Milicic might I add, has posed the question yet again, paper champs could become reality ones at the end of the season.

As Milicic best put it in an interview in ABSW this week, 'on paper we have the strongest squad in the competition, if we continue to build, we will be the team to beat.'

Cranky Miron's blast to test FFA

Get set for a possible first fine for QLD Roar coach Miron Bleiberg after his blast on referee Ben Williams last Sunday. Bleiberg was left seething after seeing the send-off of Matt McKay in the 39th minute and was also upset about the Victory's goal which had a hint of an off-side.

As both the AFL and NRL have come down on coach's comments on referees, will the FFA do the same?

Hiddink asked to look at Oz Scots!

Kilmarnock striker Danny Invincible says Australia coach Guus Hiddink should take a look at himself and Motherwell's Scott McDonald.

"I was getting more attention in Australia last season when I went on a good run of goals for Kilmarnock," Invincible told The Times.

"I was phoned up a few times by officials from the FA and told I was on the standby list. I've made a couple of squads and there is no reason why I could not get in. "I am playing a good standard of football in the Premier League. It is hard if you are not in the Premiership because you don't get as much attention. I know Scott McDonald (the Motherwell striker) felt

Big Beltrame breaks record

Adelaide United goalkeeper Daniel Beltrame created history last weekend by becoming the first ever shotstopper to see red in the A-League.

His red card against the Glory in the 67th minute was one the strapping custodian will not forget for a while.

Beltrame was sent off by referee Matthew Breeze for a needless shove on Scott Miller which saw reserve keeper Robbie Bajic called into action.

Tempers flared and it was a battle of the



First keeper to see red

twin towers as Glory's Brian Deane at 192cm bridged up to the solid 190cm presence of Beltrame.

dressing sheds

by Mark Stavroulakis

Has Sydney's bubble burst?

Are the wheels on the A-League's most fancied club Sydney FC falling?

After two successive defeats the critics have been asking the question, will Pierre Littbarski's side continue the slide, or will they end this poor run of form.

Sydney were known as THE benchmark of the A-League prior to the start of the season.

The luring of Dwight Yorke, Coach Pierre Littbarski and actor and shareholder Anthony LaPaglia was certainly an envious trio opposed to the other rival A-League clubs.

Winning the Pre-season cup comfortably then going onto becoming Oceania's elite club were obvious signs that the punters would see a Sydney FC onslaught this season.

Bookies rallied their cause by pinning them as firm favourites to take out the championship, and rightly so, their pre-season form showed why.

Now with four rounds gone, Sydney have plunged into reality after losses to the Newcastle Jets and more recently the Central Coast Mariners, have raised the alarm bells.

No major cause for concern as there is still a good 16 games ahead of the squad but fans of the sky blue side have warned that they do expect success.

The fact that the team came into the league with the 'glamour' tag pushed their expectation levels to a new level.

Everyone expected them to go through the competition undefeated, but it didn't help when the likes of Socceroo striker Sasho Petrovski rallied the call that they wanted to go through the league undefeated.

The money man for Sydney, Yorke, has by his standards, come through with flying colours so far.

Three goals in three games, and good ones at that, have put his stature of being Sydney's marquee player into place.

Unfortunately the team cannot revolve around one player and

the moment fans realise this, the better.

Littbarski has experienced teething problems, especially in the back half of the squad.

Iain Fyfe, Alvin Ceccoli and skipper Mark Rudan haven't played to the best of their ability so far.

Rudan especially, a fierce competitor on and off the pitch is one that will hope to bury the omens of a bad run of performances when they take on the Roar this week.

Known as one of the A-League's most tenacious stoppers, Rudan's experience and intensity levels will be on an all-time high – and that's a dangerous sign to take for the Roar boys. When Rudan's angry, so is Sydney FC, so an onslaught of a new sort could happen at the daunting cauldron that is Suncorp Stadium.

Fans need to realise that success takes time and as Sydney are stumbling, a win could put them back on the right track in defending their title as being the team to look out for.

Obviously as nominated by the several other A-League sides as the team everybody would love to beat, the fact of the matter is this, can the Sydney boys change their fortunes around? With the likes of Steve Corica, Ufuk Talay, Clint Bolton and David Zdrilic, you'd like to think so.

One great aspect to have come from the weekends match was the 15-thousand crowd that watched Sydney at a rain swept Aussie Stadium.

Goes to show that the marketing and promotion has come a long way in the Australian game as back in the old NSL days, a rainy day would have grouped together a few odd thousand fans.

So has the bubble burst over at Aussie Stadium?

Signs are saying yes but as the Newcastle Jets figured out their red hot form of late, so could that of the lads from Sydney.



Will the smiles reappear on the Sydney FC players this Friday evening in Queensland?

frustrated too.

"We have both given up a lot to come to Europe and try to make a career, but there have been times when some squads have been filled up with half a dozen players. "However, Guus Hiddink got South Korea to the semi-finals in 2002 and he knows what he is doing. I am sure he will stick with the experienced guys for the play-off but if we qualify, maybe he will experiment after that."

Dukes puts Australia first

Middlesbrough striker Mark Viduka will stake his claim for a place at next northern summer's World Cup by leading the fight for his club both at home and in Europe.

Viduka, 29, suffered a frustrating first campaign at the Riverside Stadium when injuries limited him to just 10 minutes of football between Boxing Day and the end of the season.

However, having regained his fitness, he is determined to rediscover the form which made him one of English football's most dangerous strikers during his time at Leeds.

"My ultimate goal is to play for my country in the World Cup, so I have to keep my form and fitness," he said. "It is always difficult playing in a European game and then playing at the weekend, but all the big clubs have to do it."

Neill to take Muscat crown

The English football pitches are safe from the tough tackling challenges of one Kevin Muscat but alas a new hero has arisen from the pack.

Socceroo defender Lucas Neill has gained a reputation for being one of THE 'hard-men' of the English Premier League and already with a handful of cautions and a red card to boot, the trend of tough Australian defenders continues to grow in the U.K.

Muscat may have gone but Neill has filled his shoes nicely.

Monie interests Jets

There could be a new short-term deal given to striker James Monie.

These are the rumours circulating Newcastle at the moment as Richard Money looks towards strengthening his squad

Monie, who has experience playing in Asia, is the reigning NBN Player of the year could be used as a back-up option in the striking department for the Jets.

Trends of A-League side's signing players on short-term deals has risen and will rise in the next few weeks, especially from Sydney FC and QLD Roar's end.

Poms could torpedo Australian bid

They've beaten us in the Ashes and now our fiercest rivals England want to better their recent efforts over us Aussies in another department.

Australia's hopes of hosting the World Cup in 2018 face stiff competition from England, which has revealed plans to make its own bid.

The English Football Association has begun exploratory talks with Chancellor Gordon Brown - tipped to succeed Tony Blair as Prime Minister - about a 2018 bid according to the Evening Standard. England last hosted the World Cup in 1966.

The sport's governing body FIFA has tried to institute a rotational policy for the World Cup.

In 2002 it was staged in Asia (Japan/Korea), next year in Europe (Germany), 2010 in Africa (South Africa) and 2014 in the Americas where Brazil is favourite.

Upon that rotational plan, the World Cup would return in 2018 to Asia, of which Australia is now a part having left the Oceania confederation.

Football Federation Australia chief executive John O'Neill had declared Australia was considering a bid for 2018.

London will host the Olympic Games in 2012.



A-League Round 4

SKIPPER SPENCER CAPITALISES AT AUSSIE

Defensive errors cost Sydney dear - Again!

By Peter Damalas

The crowd turned up again, but left Aussie Stadium - the so-called 'fortress' - without a win to celebrate for the second time this season.

But the disappointment would surely have been short lived for two reasons.

The first cause for satisfaction was the dramatic and entertaining five-goal thriller that the supporters witnessed, the second cause for celebration was the line that was emerging outside the SCG, with news of

Who's Hot:

The Central Coast's central midfield pairing of Noel Spencer and Andre Gumprecht were vital to the Mariners' victory.

The two full-blooded players shaded the Sydney duo of McFlynn and Talay in a keenly fought contest in the middle of a rain-soaked Aussie Stadium pitch, and provided two of the three goals scored by the side. Highly influential.

Who's Not:

While the home side played arguably better than it did in the first round against Melbourne Victory, the squad still lacks cohesion at the back at critical times in matches, and needs more steel in the midfield in order to allow Talay the freedom to construct attacking plays.

the Sydney Swans, victory in the AFL Preliminary Final filtering through to the departing masses.

But let's concentrate of the football at hand.

The home side put in an improved per-

formance to the first round fixture, where 25,000 plus saw a 1-1 draw with Melbourne Victory.

Sydney FC displayed some attacking flair, with Ufuk Talay and Dwight Yorke particularly instrumental.

The Mariners, backed by a throng of supporters behind one end, provided stiff resistance, a far cry from the submission at home last weekend to the previously winless New Zealand Knights.

In teeming rain, Yorke displayed his experience and composure to set the first attacking move into play and then deliver the all-important assist (a low ball across the face of goal) for Packer to blast home from point-blank range on thirteen minutes.

Five minutes later though, Sydney captain Mark Rudan felled Tom Pondeljak in the penalty area, which allowed Scotsman Stewart Petrie the opportunity to restore parity.

In what first appeared to be a set move, the Scotsman duly converted the resulting kick despite the distractions posed by rival players.

"Some of the Sydney players were kicking and jostling," said Mariners coach Lawrie McKinna after the match. "I thought Petrie showed a lot of bottle."

With ten minutes of the half remaining, Andre Gumprecht latched onto to a deflected assist from Pondeljak to give the away side the lead with an angled effort.

Pierre Littbarski's team were restricted to long range shooting considering the slippery conditions.

The second period was certainly more pleasing to the spectators.

Sydney FC sprung to life as Central Coast pressed and harassed, and attempted to hit the opponents on the break.

Fringe Soccerroo Sasho Petrovski had his first touch of the ball well smothered by the



Sydney FC

2



Central Coast Mariners

3



Central Coast Mariners skipper pulls the trigger on his final goal that gifted the three points to the away side

advancing goalkeeper John Crawley, who saved smartly from a well-directed David Carney shot just a minute later.

But after 72 minutes, one of the most attractive sweeping movements of the game culminated in 'you-know-who' Yorke deftly scoring the equaliser.

It was his third goal in three matches adding to his goal of scoring in every match for Sydney.

Initiated by goalkeeper Clint Bolton, the move involved Matthew Bingley, Carney and Talay - who produced a spellbinding ball from the right touchline not too dissimilar from a David Beckham cross in his Manchester United heyday.

The Sydney players were warmly applauded for the team effort, especially considering it was created in conditions that were not conducive to deck play.

However, it all came unstuck when yet another central defensive blunder cost Sydney the points in stoppage time.

Iain Fyfe pulled down substitute Adam Kwasnik awfully close to the penalty area.

The up-and-coming defender might as well have conceded the penalty, with Noel Spencer lining up the free-kick.

His piledriver took a wicked deflection off Alvin Ceccoli to mystify Bolton and land in the back of the net.

The goal may have provoked a flashback for Littbarski, whose West Germany teammate Andreas Brehme scored in the 1990 World Cup semi-final against England in similar fashion.

The sheer joy exhibited on the Central Coast bench indicated how important the victory was to the fledgling club who have thus far been unable to attract solid atten-

dances at its two home matches.

For McKinna it was a case of "third time lucky" against the 'glamour boys'.

He paid tribute to the supporters (the Mariners) and the passion of the players themselves in the press conference.

Littbarski said that Sydney had "made an improvement" in terms of its offensive play, and stated that the match was a "fifty-fifty" event.

He acknowledged that the competition provided by the seven A-League clubs was always going to be fierce, and downplayed talk that his team were favourites for the inaugural competition.

Meanwhile, club co-captain David Zdrilic argued that "[what happens to Sydney FC] tends to be exaggerated and hyped up."

Sydney have the tough task of going to Queensland this Friday in hopefully changing its fortunes with a much needed win under their belts.



Goal-a-game star striker Dwight Yorke (right), scored his third in three matches for Sydney



Mariners custodian John Crawley puts his fist through Sydney FC striker Dwight Yorke at Aussie Stadium last Friday

GAME STATS

SYDNEY FC 2
(A Packer 13', D Yorke 72')
Ground: Aussie Stadium. Crowd: 15,614.
Referee: Peter O'Leary

Sydney FC: Clint Bolton, Iain Fyfe, Alvin Ceccoli, Mark Rudan (c) (Jacob Timpano 87'), Ufuk Talay, Matthew Bingley, David Zdrilic (Sasho Petrovski 54'), David Carney, Andrew Packer (Robbie Middleby 84'), Terry McFlynn, Dwight Yorke.

CC MARINERS 3
(S Petrie 19pen, A Gumprecht 35', N Spencer 92')

CC Mariners: John Crawley, Wayne O'Sullivan, Noel Spencer (c), Michael Beauchamp, Andre Gumprecht, John Hutchinson, Dean Heffernan, Tom Pondeljak, Stewart Petrie (Adam Kwasnik 50'), Andrew Clark, Alex Wilkinson.

Yellow Cards: Matthew Bingley (SFC) 47', Noel Spencer (CCM) 50', Andre Gumprecht (CCM) 58'.

Player Ratings on page 22



A-League Round 4

ADELAIDE ADD ANOTHER WIN

Kosmina's boys set the pace as leaders of the A-League

By Richard Kreider

Surprise ladder leaders Adelaide United consolidated their standing in the Hyundai A-League competition by way of a gritty, yet disciplined 2-1 triumph over Perth Glory at Member's Equity Stadium last Saturday.

It was a praiseworthy victory, having contested much of the second-half with ten men and showing the tenacity to prevent

Who's Hot:

The Adelaide defence, consisting of Aaron Goulding, Michael Valkanis, Kristian Rees and Ange Costanzo were outstanding, especially when their side was a man down.

Who's Not:

Where are the legendary loyal Glory fans? Only eight thousand attended Saturday's game.

Taunting Perth supporters behind the Adelaide goal threw a number of plastic drink bottles onto the pitch, after Adelaide's substitute goalkeeper Robert Bajic's gesticulated to them at the final whistle.

their opponents from getting anything from the game.

"We must keep our heads up," said Perth coach Steve McMahon. "This was an ideal

opportunity to get on even terms with the top team (Adelaide) but we didn't do it. And that is what disappoints because we know we are capable of doing that."

McMahon refused to be drawn into discussing the performance of Glory's marquee signing, 37-year old Brian Deane, who yet again failed to deliver.

"Yes, Brian didn't perform to his maximum I must admit, but you can't just say Brian is not performing," said McMahon. "There are a number of players that didn't perform to their maximum."

Another area of concern for Glory officials is the attendance figure, where it was anticipated a large crowd would be on hand to see their side take on the competition's top team.

However, only 8,052 were in attendance last Saturday, almost 500 fewer than the previous weekend's home fixture.

Meanwhile, United boss John Kosmina was relaxed about clinching maximum points away from home, even after seeing his goalkeeper Daniel Beltrame collect a red card for an act of recklessness in the 67th minute.

"A lot of things we work on, we weren't doing," said Kossie. "Maybe it was the trip, maybe we needed to come over a bit earlier."

"But we ground it out. That is what we work on. If things don't go well, football wise, then we work on keeping our shape."

It was the Perth team who started the more enterprisingly, with Deane and Bobby



Perth Glory

Adelaide United

1

2



Chinese delight as Qu Shengqing is swamped by his teammates after scoring the winner while Glory defender Ante Kovacevic (left) looks on

Despotovski both presented with good chances in the opening exchanges.

Hiroyuki Ishida, who turned 26 last month, played one of his best games in a Glory shirt and came close to breaking the deadlock in the 14th minute with a grass-level strike from well out, that was smartly saved by the Adelaide keeper.

The breakthrough came after 20 minutes from a searching pass out of the Perth half by Ante Kovacevic, which had Beltrame, Kristian Rees and Despotovski all race for the ball.

The keeper's attempted clearance kick, however, crashed into his defender and rebound cruelly towards the United net.

It was the first goal conceded by the Adelaide side this season.

Nevertheless, it took the visitors just twelve minutes before levelling the score, as midfielder Ross Aloisi ran on to a pass from Carl Veart before firing a superb volley from the edge of the box, between Jason Petkovics' left glove and the upright.

It was a blow to the Glory machine, as they were dominating the match up until then and playing the best football seen at home this season.

The second half was barely a minute old when Beltrame produced a good save from a 25 metre Despotovski free-kick.

United responded after 65 minutes by taking the lead through United substitute striker Qu Shengqing. Starting from a through-ball from seasoned midfielder

Veart, the Chinese international shrugged off his marker Jamie Harnwell on the front of the Glory box, before drilling a low-level shot past Petkovic.

At the other end, Beltrame turned from hero to villain within the space of a minute, when after making a smart save to a stinging strike from Despotovski, the United custodian stormed 20 metres out from his goal-line to push Glory defender Scott Miller to the ground, in retaliation for Miller's equally uncalled-for attack on Adelaide defender Rees.

"The referee had the red card out before he did it," said Miller at the press conference after the game. Despite being a man down, Adelaide managed to repel the Perth onslaught, with much of the credit going to their firm and composed rearguard.



Bobby Despotovski celebrates his fourth goal in the A-League



Glory marksman Brian Deane (right) and Kristian Rees search for the ball in one of their many aerial battles on Saturday night

GAME STATS	
PERTH GLORY 1 (B Despotovski 21')	ADELAIDE UTD 2 (R Aloisi 32', Q Shengqing 65')
Ground: Members Equity Stadium. Crowd: 8,052. Referee: Matthew Breeze	
Perth Glory: Jason Petkovic, Simon Colosimo (Nick Ward 79'), Jaime Harnwell (c) (Henry Fa'arodo 75'), Scott Miller, Bobby Despotovski, Hiroyuki Ishida, Ante Kovacevic, Jamie Coyne, Billy Celestki, Brian Deane, Naum Sekulovski.	
Adelaide Utd: Daniel Beltrame, Kristian Rees, Angelo Costanzo, Michael Valkanis, Ross Aloisi (c), Carl Veart, Matthew Kemp, Louis Brain (Robert Bajic 68'), Travis Dodd (Robert Cornthwaite 84'), Aaron Goulding, Adam Van Dommelle (Qu Shengqing 55').	
Cautions: Scott Miller (PG) 68', Ante Kovacevic (PG) 73', Carl Veart (AU) 51', Adam Van Dommelle (AU) 71'.	
Red Cards: Daniel Beltrame (AU) 67'.	
Player Ratings on page 22	



A-League Round 4

Courageous Roar fall to Allsopp equaliser

Melbourne yet to score a Victory this season

By Glenn Davis

A controversial late goal from Danny Allsopp enabled Melbourne Victory to escape with a 1-all draw against a 10-man Queensland Roar at Suncorp Stadium on Sunday.

In front of another bumper crowd of 15,444, Roar coach Miron Bleiberg's wish to turn Suncorp Stadium into a fortress became a reality when the home side overcame being a man down to lead Melbourne until the final two minutes following the send off of dynamic midfielder Matt McKay for a two-footed tackle on Steve Pantelidis six minutes before the interval.

Referee Ben Williams' handling of the grudge match between the two sides was the talking point after he awarded Allsopp's 88th minute equaliser when he got in on the blindside of Roar defender Karl Dodd to tap home despite striker Archie Thompson clearly in an off-side position and interfering with play.

Who's Hot:

The Roar's defence in Karl Dodd, Chad Gibson and Josh McCloughlan were as solid as a rock even when the team lost McKay to a red card late in the first half.

The Victory were simply unable to breach the Queensland back-line and were 'lucky' to have grabbed that late equalising goal by Allsopp.

Who's Not:

It is true that some of the refereeing decisions made by Ben Williams were not the best which saw both sides hit the complaint book.

The Roar felt McKay's send off was uncalled for while the Victory's claims for a clear penalty were simply waved away.

The Roar players' were infuriated with Williams' decision which ended all their hard work since Michael Baird put them ahead in the 62nd minute with a thundering left foot side footer following a superb pass from Alex Brosque.

Thompson, his front partner Allsopp and Andy Vlahos were always dangerous when the visitors attacked but despite McKay's dismissal, the Roar's defence in the second half was almost impregnable.

Melbourne just shaded the Roar for possession in the first half but it was the home side who clearly had the better chances in the opening period.

The match started at a frantic pace and stayed that way for most of the game with the Roar overpowering Melbourne to tackle control of the midfield.

The home side had numerous scoring chances in the opening period before McKay's controversial dismissal and could easily have gone into the break two or three goals in front.

Brosque had the first of several attempts after only five minutes when he snapped a shot from 25 metres which took a deflection.

His front partner Michael Baird also gave his side an early glimmer of hope when he set up Jonti Richter only to see his attempt sail into the waiting arms of keeper Michael Theoklitos three minutes later.

The opening 20 minutes was played at a fast and furious past with high intensity but Melbourne's chances were limited with Andy Vlahos and Thompson making few inroads.

McKay had arguably his side's s best first half chance after 14 minutes when Richter broke down the right sand cut inside before laying off for McKay to strike a 20 metre shot just wide of the upright.

Michael Baird became the first of four players booked by Williams in the first

	Queensland Roar	1
	Melbourne Victory	1

half for a late challenge on Theoklitos after McKay attempted to set him up with a close range shot in the 17th minute.

Two minutes later Richter had another opportunity to break the early deadlock but was off target with a header off a cross from Brosque on the left flank.

At the halfway mark of the first half the Roar was still dominating midfield and had seven shots to Melbourne's two although the Victory were slowly grinding their way back into the game.

Melbourne started to find their feet after McKay's dismissal and had two chances of their own in the dying minutes of the opening period.

Vlahos sent in a superb free kick from the left which easily beat Roar keeper Tom Willis but so good was his cross it also beat two of his team-mates waiting at the far post.

One of Melbourne's best first half chances came as the Roar started to tire eight minutes from the break when Vlahos sent Thompson racing away into the box but a finger tip save from Willis saved the day.

The Victory found the upright three minutes into injury time in the first half when Kitzbichler hit a shot low after Vlahos set him up in front of goal.

McKay's send off caused coach Miron Bleiberg to make a change to a 3-4-2 formation for the second half as well as bringing on Warren Moon for Richter who had a physical battle with Kevin Muscat in the opening period.

With the extra man against them it was thought the Roar would defend and hope to secure a point in the second half but the home side continued where they left off in the first 45 minutes.

Naturally, Melbourne had the better of second half possession with the extra man but they failed to capitalise on their advantage with McKay sitting in the dressing rooms.

Melbourne had three chances to take the lead shortly after the interval but some wild shooting and good goalkeeping from Willis kept the visitors at bay until two minutes from normal time.

The Victory also had cause to be angry at the referring when Thompson appealed for a penalty after appearing to be fouled by giant Roar defender Josh McCloughlan.

However, Melbourne's appeals fell on deaf ears and in the process Thomson was booked for taking a dive.

Roar coach Miron Bleiberg was livid with the performance from match officials.

"People at home saw (Melbourne's



Melbourne midfielder Vince Lia (right) launches a ball down-hill as Royce Brownlie attempts to block his option

goal) 10 times better than me so who am I to judge? But, according to me, Massimo got punched one metre from the linesman that started the attack and everyone froze for a moment," he said.

"And then ... Archie Thompson, the ball passed by him and he was off-side so our defence stopped and he just moved his body and allowed the ball through for Allsopp to score.

"It was using the new passive off-side law to the extreme. It's obviously disappointing - so close, so far."

Of McKay's send off, Bleiberg said it ruined the game.

"It was completely unnecessary and basically it's ruined our game," Bleiberg said.

Melbourne coach Ernie Merrick disagreed and believed Thompson caused no interference.



Victory's Daniel Piorkowski (right) wins a headed duel over Roar scorer Michael Baird.



Queensland fans show their colour and support as yet again, fans flocked to see the Roar at Suncorp Stadium

G A M E		S T A T S	
QUEENSLAND ROAR	1	MELBOURNE VICTORY:	Michael Theoklitos, Kevin Muscat @, Geoffrey Claes, Steve Pantelidis, Michael Ferrante, Andy Vlahos (Kristian Sarkies 66'), Archie Thompson, Daniel Allsopp, Carl Recchia (Daniel Piorkowski 27'), Adrian Leijer, Richard Kitzbichler (Vince Lia 46')
(Baird 62')		Yellow Cards:	M Baird (QR) 17', A Brosque (QR) 44', Chad Gibson (QR) 77', Geoffrey Claes (MV) 27', Adrian Leijer (MV) 45', Archie Thompson (MV) 67'
MELBOURNE VICTORY	1	Red Cards:	M McKay (QR) 39'
(Allsopp 88')			
Ground: Suncorp Stadium. Crowd: 15,444. Referee: Ben Williams.			
QUEENSLAND ROAR: Tom Willis, Karl Dodd, Chad Gibson @, Josh McCloughlan, Massimo Muroccia, Michael Baird (Todd Gava 81'), Jonti Richter (Warren Moon 45'), Matthew McKay, Hyuk-Su Seo, Alex Brosque (Royce Brownlie 70'), Spase Dilevski			



A-League Round 4

Knights annihilated by ruthless Jets

Newcastle finally hitting their straps with bombing victory



A day to forget for Knights keeper Danny Milosevic as frustration set in after losing 4-0 to the Jets

By Mark Stavroulakis and wire services

Newcastle has moved into second on the A-League ladder with a convincing 4-0 win over New Zealand Knights at EnergyAustralia Stadium.

The Jets registered the league's biggest victory to date despite missing star striker Ante Milicic, who suffered a hamstring strain in the warm-up.

Milicic, who has vowed to become one of the pacesetters for the top scorer's award in the A-League, vowed he will be back for this week's clash against the Melbourne Victory.

Labinot Haliti partnered debutant Englishman Guy Bates up front for the Jets in Milicic's absence, and made the most of his opportunity by putting the home side in the lead after 13 minutes.

Hopeful Socceroo Ned Zelic floated in a free kick and Thompson sent a looping header over Knights goalkeeper Danny

Milosevic and onto the left post.

Haliti pounced on the loose ball and put it into the open net for his first Hyundai A-League goal.

Matt Thompson and Stuart Musialik made it 3-0 by the break, before Nick Carle finished the rout in the 70th minute - all goals well appreciated by the vocal 7495-strong crowd.

Milicic broke his finger in the victory over Sydney and would have started but for his recurrent hamstring problem.

Haliti's opening score followed a near miss from Thompson.

Thompson doubled his sides lead in the 27th minute after the Knights failed to properly clear a Carle free kick.

The ball fell back into Carle's path with the star midfielder looping the ball into the box for Thompson to head passed a goalkeeper Danny Milosevic.

So far, the former Parramatta Power midfielder has been a workaholic running around in the Jets centre tackling and shutting down everything in sight.

Thompson's high work rate ethic has risen weekly and has put him in good stead for what appears to be a cracker of a season for young 'Thommo'.

Musialik, in his starting debut, netted Newcastle's third in the 37th minute after finishing off some quality lead-up work from Carle and Richard Johnson with a great run and header.

A former AIS graduate, Musialik made most his debut with a powerful performance that would have warranted him a starting call for the club's next match.

New Zealand launched a rare attack late in the first half when striker Simon Yeo forced a terrific one-handed save from Liam Reddy who was hardly called upon all evening.

Knights manager John Adshead used up all three substitutions at the break and New Zealand immediately pressured Newcastle's goalmouth, looking much more dangerous in attack and receiving three successive corners early in the sec-

ond term.

However the issue was all dead and buried in the 70th minute when sizzling star Carle added the fourth from the penalty spot after he was tripped in the box by fullback Knights Ronnie Bull.

He sent keeper Milosevic the wrong way to finish the Nightmare that was the opposing side.

To Carle's credit, the tricky midfielder has been the Jets best player so far which could have possibly warranted a Socceroos call-up in the near future.

Although not apart of former Roos coach Frank Farina's plans after a fall-out, Carle has did himself a lot of favours by impressing so far in the A-League with terrific performances which both Guus Hiddink and Graham Arnold would have heard about.

Newcastle coach Richard Money labelled his side's performance as clinical.

"Some of the play in the final third was tremendous, the move for the penalty was out of the top drawer," Money said.

"If we put work ethic together with the ability we've got, we've got a chance of being a decent team.

"We're getting better week by week, but we've done nothing yet."

After Milicic felt a twinge in his hamstring during the warm-up, Money said he felt it was better to pull the former Socceroo out.

"When he came to me and said he's got a slight problem, it's not what you want to hear before the match. The boys that went up front gave that little bit extra, which was terrific."

Knights coach John Adshead was at a loss to describe his side's performance.

"We defended poorly, why that is, it's



Newcastle's hardworking defensive midfielder Paul Kohler looks for options

Newcastle Jets

4

New Zealand Knights

0



The midfield maestro battle between Jets star Nick Carle (left) and Knights' Zenon Caravella

hard to put your finger on," Adshead said.

"We didn't get any breaks. It was a very poor day at the office. Anything that could go wrong did go wrong."

Adshead paid tribute to Newcastle's defence.

"Some of the goals were a bit bizarre. You wouldn't call them classics. But they capitalised on the breaks they got and didn't let us back in."

Jets skipper Ned Zelic hardly put a foot wrong during the evening, as did fellow defenders Jade North and Allan Picken who has improved out of sight since his first round performance.

For the away side, crafty midfielder and Sydneysider Zenon Caravella battled hard while tenacious defender John Tambouras were the pick for the Knights.

Who's Hot:

Starting in his first A-League match Jets 20-year-old midfielder Stuart Musialik was certainly up for the test.

The former AIS graduate not only scored a great goal, but played a role in many of the Jets attacks.

Yet another midfield option coach Richard Money has at his disposal.

Who's Not:

After claiming ABSW's Player of the Week in round 3, Knights keeper Danny Milosevic was not his usual self for the Newcastle trip.

The former Leeds man was caught napping numerous times in no mans land but due to his high expectations under the sticks, more was needed from the big star.

ABSW is expecting a cracking performance by Milosevic this Thursday against the Glory.

GAME STATS

NEWCASTLE UNITED JETS 4
(L Haliti 13', M Thompson 27', S Musialik 37', N Carle 70'pen)

Ground: Energy Australia Stadium.
Referee: Simon Przydacz. Crowd: 7,495.

NEWCASTLE JETS: Liam Reddy, Jade North, Ned Zelic, Richard Johnson (Brett Studman 73'), Matt Thompson, Nick Carle, Guy Bates (Mark Bridge 64'), Paul Kohler, Stuart Musialik, Labinot Haliti (Franco Parisi 77').

NEW ZEALAND KNIGHTS 0

77', Allan Picken.

NZ KNIGHTS: Danny Milosevic, Darren Bazeley, Ronnie Bull, John Tambouras, Danny Hay @ (Steve Fitzsimmons 45'), Neil Embien, Ben Collett, Simon Yeo, Zenon Caravella, Joshua Rose (Sean Devine 45'), Noah Hickey (Xiaobin Zhang 45').

Yellow Cards: Ronnie Bull (KFC), John Tambouras (KFC).



Round Five: A-League Previews



QLD Roar VS Sydney FC

Friday 23rd September

The Game: What a mouth-watering clash this will be between two states who absolutely hate each other.

The Roar will be looking towards building their reputation as being unbeatable at their fortress in Suncorp Stadium while Sydney desperately needs to hit the wins again in living up to their high expectations.

Player to Watch: After being sent off in Sydney's match against the Jets two weeks ago, experienced midfielder Steve Corica has a point to prove in creating more attacking spurs for the away side.

Not known for being a rough player, Corica will be out to hopefully feed strikers Dwight Yorke.

Sasho-Petrovski and David Zdrilic.

X-Factor: The intimidating factor of Suncorp could pave as a massive advantage for the Roar. Also with their speed in attack in both the striking and midfield department, will the Sydney defence be able to hold on?

The Outcome: A high scoring game is on the cards as the attack minded Roar will want to put as much pressure as possible on the currently inconsistent Sydney defence.

A draw looks the likely scenario but expect a heated encounter between two fiery sides.

Roar coach Miron Bileberg will be hoping for a better performance by the match officials after slamming last week's referee Ben Williams for the Victory clash.

Tip the Score: 2-2 - M.S.



Adelaide United VS CC Mariners

Sunday 25th September

The Game: It's the A-League's front runners Adelaide United looking towards furthering their stay on the top of the competition against a rejuvenated Mariners outfit.

Hindmarsh Stadium has been a graveyard for any opposing side and the Mariners will need to be at their best in beating the league's most well assembled unit at the moment.

Player to Watch: The defensive presence of Michael Valkanis has been outstanding so far this year. His aerial dominance and the ability to mark out his opponents has worked to a tee so far.

Look to his battle with Stewart Petrie as being the highlight of the evening.

X-Factor: As stated earlier, Adelaide are playing with

a lot of confidence both away and especially at home.

Hindmarsh has been hard to grab points at so the Mariners will need to call on everything they have in collecting a point.

Suspended influential keeper Daniel Beltrame will be out for this match and the inexperienced Robbie Bajic steps in under the sticks for Adelaide.

The Outcome: Adelaide have clearly stated that they are the team to beat this year. An almost brick-like defence accompanied by an experienced attack will see them hard to lose at their fortress against the Mariners.

Chinese international Qu Shengqing has returned to the side with a goal against the Glory last week so he will be looking towards firing in front of a vocal home crowd.

Tip the Score: Adelaide United 2-1 - M.S.



NZ Knights vs Perth Glory

Thursday 22nd September

The Game: John Adshead will want a 100% performance from his Knights side after a disastrous trip to the Jets which ended in a four-nil loss.

Failing to breach the Jets defence line, the attacking trio of Joshua Rose, Simon Yeo and Sean Devine will need to fire.

The Glory meanwhile will be looking for a vital victory in putting them back on the winners circle once more.

Their second loss at home has raised concern about Perth's chances of taking points in their own den.

Player to Watch: Glory's ace marksman Bobby

Despotovski has been on fire having scored four goals in four matches; he's really been the only shining star in an otherwise average Perth team.

X-Factor: The continuing rise of Despotovski along with the increased performances by Billy Celeski and the back from injury star Naum Sekulovski could pose as a serious threat to the home side.

The Outcome: Although the Knights will be out to impress in front of their home crowd, the mounting pressure on the Glory side to perform will certainly spur them on for what could be a vital victory away from home.

Tip the Score: Perth Glory 2-1 - M.S.



Melbourne Victory VS Newcastle Jets

Sunday 25th September

The Game: Having failed to post a win after four rounds, Ernie Merrick will be hoping that his run of draws and defeats will come to an end against the Jets.

Only problem is that Newcastle are currently the in-form side of the competition and will be up for the task in more ways than one.

Player to Watch: Week in week out Victory midfielder Michael Ferrante has been a terrific asset to the Melbourne squad.

He's runs across the pitch will be one to look out for, as will his tough tackling attitude. A great battle will rise between Ferrante and Jets midfielder Nick Carle.

X-Factor: The Jets have won their past 2

matches at home; will their away form be the same also?

This will be revealed in front of what will be a packed Olympic Park due to the conclusion of the AFL Finals which will be played on Saturday at the MCG.

The Outcome: Melbourne at the moment really don't look like the side they were during their round 1 clash against Sydney.

Goals have been hard to come by and Merrick will be calling on Archie Thompson to kick start his goalscoring spree.

The Jets will be tough customers who have strengthened their defence and their attack has been a pleasure to watch. Jets to prove too strong

Tip the Score: Newcastle Jets 2-1 M.S.

Goalscorers

4 - Bobby Despotovski (Perth Glory)

3 - Dwight Yorke (Sydney FC)

2 - Ante Milicic (Jets), Stewart Petrie (CC Mariners), Noel Spencer (CC Mariners), Michael Baird (QLD Roar)

1 - Louis Brain (Ade United), Warren Moon (QLD Roar), Simon Yeo (NZ Knights), Sean Devine (NZ Knights), Richard Johnson (Jets), Joshua Rose (NZ Knights), Mark Rudan (Sydney FC), Matthew Bingley (Sydney FC), Robbie Middleby (Sydney FC), Richard Kitzbichler (Melb Victory), Kevin Muscat (Melb Victory), Adrian Caceres (Perth Glory), Carl Veart (Ade Utd), Alex Brosque (QLD Roar), Ross Aloisi (Ade Utd), Qu Shengqing (Ade Utd), A Packer (Sydney FC), Andre Gumprecht (CC Mariners), Daniel Allsopp (Melb Victory), Labint Haliti (Jets), Nick Carle (Jets), Staurt Musialik (Jets), Matthew Thompson (Jets)



Adelaide United skipper Ross Aloisi has been praying to the Gods since his side's top run of form

Fixtures

Round 5

*Thursday September 22nd
NZ Knights vs Perth Glory

*Friday September 23rd
QLD Roar vs Sydney FC

*Sunday September 24th
Adelaide Utd vs CC Mariners

*Sunday September 24th
Melbourne Victory vs Newcastle Jets



A-League Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Adelaide United	4	3	1	0	4	1	10
2. Newcastle Jets	4	2	1	1	7	3	7
3. Central Coast Mariners	4	2	1	1	5	5	7
4. Queensland Roar	4	1	2	1	4	3	5
5. Sydney FC	4	1	1	2	7	7	4
6. Perth Glory	4	1	1	2	5	6	4
7. Melbourne Victory	4	0	3	1	4	5	3
8. New Zealand Knights	4	1	0	3	3	9	3

ABSWS TIPSTERS FOR THE SEASON



Richard Kreider
-Perth Glory
-QLD Roar
-Adelaide Utd
-Draw

6



Joe Russo
-Perth Glory
-Sydney FC
-CC Mariners
-Newcastle Jets

7



Peter Damalas
-Draw
-Draw
-Draw
-Draw

8



Glenn Davis
-Perth Glory
-QLD Roar
-Adelaide Utd
-Newcastle Jets

7



Daniela Raco
-Perth Glory
-Sydney FC
-CC Mariners
-Newcastle Jets

5



Mark Stavroulakis
-Perth Glory
-Draw
-Adelaide Utd
-Newcastle Jets

5



'Malcolm'
-NZ Knights
-QLD Roar
-CC Mariners
-Draw

6



A-LEAGUE FEATURES



★ PLAYER RATINGS ★

Sydney FC
Clint Bolton 6
Matthew Bingley 7
Alvin Ceccoli 7
Mark Rudan 6
Iain Fyfe 6
Terry McFlynn 6
Ufuk Talay 7
Andrew Packer 7
David Carney 7
Dwight Yorke 7
David Zdrilic 7
Subs
Sasho Petrovski 5
Robbie Middleby 5
Jacob Timpano 5

C.C. Mariners
John Crawley 7
Alex Wilkinson 7
Dean Heffernan 6
Michael Beauchamp 7
Andrew Clark 7
Noel Spencer 8
Andre Gumprecht 8
Wayne O'Sullivan 8
John Hutchinson 7
Tom Pondeljak 7
Stewart Petrie 7
Subs
Adam Kwasnik 6

Perth Glory
Jason Petkovic 7
Simon Colosimo 7
Jalme Hamwell 7
Scott Miller 7
Bobby Despotovski 8
Hiro Ishida 8
Ante Kovacevic 8
Jalme Coyne 8
Billy Celeski 9
Brian Deane 6
Naum Sekulovski 8

Adelaide United
Daniel Beltrame 7
Kristian Rees 8
Angelo Costanzo 8
Michael Valkanis 8
Ross Aloisi 8
Carl Veart 9
Matthew Kemp 8
Louis Brain 7
Travis Dodd
Aaron Goulding 8
Adam Van Dommele 7

Queensland Roar
Tom Willis 7
Karl Dodd 7
Chad Gibson 8
Josh McCloughlan 7
Massimo Muroccca 8
Michael Baird 7
Jonti Richter 7
Matthew McKay 7
Hyuk-Su Seo 8
Alex Brosque 8
Spase Dilevski 7
Subs
Royce Brownlie 7
Warren Moon 7
Todd Gava 6

Melbourne Victory
Michael Theoklitos 7
Kevin Muscat 7
Geoffrey Claeys 7
Steve Pantellidis 6
Michael Ferrante 7
Andy Vlahos 8
Archie Thompson 8
Daniel Allsopp 8
Carl Recchia 7
Adrian Leijer 7
Richard Kitzbichler 7
Subs
Kristian Sarkies 7
Daniel Piorkowski 7
Vince Lia 7

Newcastle Jets
Liam Reddy 7
Jade North 7
Ned Zelic 8
Richard Johnson 7
Matt Thompson 8
Nick Carle 9
Guy Bates 7
Paul Kohler 7
Stuart Musialik 9
Labinot Haliti 8
Allan Picken 7
Subs
Franco Parisi 6
Mark Bridge 6
Brett Studman 5

NZ Knights
Danny Milosevic 5
Darren Bazeley 5
Ronnie Bull 5
John Tambouras 7
Danny Hay 5 (45')
Neil Emblen 5
Ben Collett 6
Simon Yeo 6
Zenon Caravella 7
Joshua Rose 5
Noah Hickey 5
Subs
Steve Fitzsimmons 5
Sean Devine 6
Xiaobin Zhang 6

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

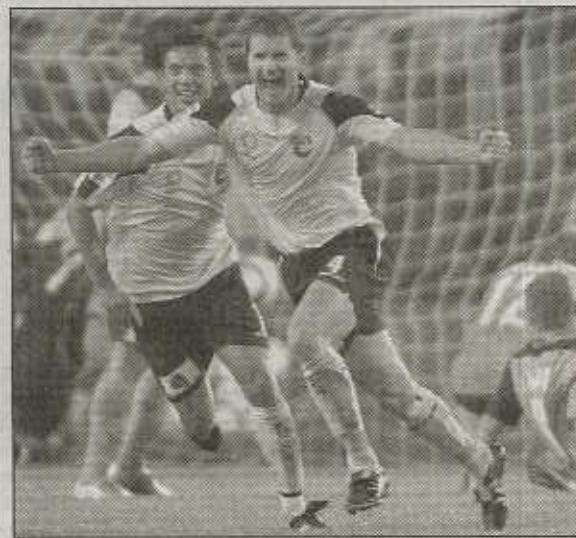
Noel Spencer (Central Coast Mariners)

Central Coast skipper Noel Spencer has made it a habit now of scoring and he did just that against Sydney FC at Aussie Stadium last week.

Not only did he score the winner, but his tireless efforts in his side's midfield alongside Andre Gumprecht was the difference between the two squads.

Spencer fought hard and well against Sydney duo Terry McFlynn and Ufuk Talay on a slippery surface but it was the captain's commitment all round that caught the attention of the ABSW crew.

His influence is priceless for the Mariners who all look up to the former Spirit star in more ways than one.



Never fear 'Mr Nice Guy' is here

'JC', the saviour underneath the Mariners sticks

By Mark Stavoulakis

Bearing the initials of the big man Jesus Christ himself, you'd like to think that A-League side the Central Coast Mariners are in safe hands – literally.

33-year-old shot-stopper John Crawley has already established himself as the club's number one and also firmed up as possibly being one of this competition's standout keepers.

Having played most of his career football in the NSW Premier League with the Blacktown City Demons, which also saw him play three Grand-Finals, Crawley has made the transition into A-League life quite easily.

"It's good to feel like a professional again", he stated.

"It's also good knowing your getting paid for what you love doing, training everyday in a professional environment up at the Central Coast.

"It's what I've always wanted and at the moment I'm really quite content."

Back in 1991, a then fresh faced 18-year-old was spotted by Chilean First Division giants Colo Colo during a NSW state team trip.

Crawley spent four years in the

tough leagues of Chile where he was also loaned out to Lota Schwager and Magallanes.

Back home, Crawley played for the Demons, Macarthur Rams and even had a short with former NSL side Sydney United before gaining the call-up with the Mariners.

So far, the number one Mariners man has been very impressed with the standard of the A-League amidst claims that it was seen as the old NSL league only re-badged.

"I think it's a good standard on what we are seeing at the moment and I didn't really think we had such a bad one in terms of the old National League.

"Statistics have shown that we have produced great players from the NSL over the years and I know it will only get better with the A-League.

"Obviously, I have a firm belief that the A-League is a better standard as we have a lot of talent in each side."

It's about time that in his 33 years of football, 'JC' has finally achieved the recognition he thoroughly deserved on being perched in Australia's elite competition.

For too long, many fans were wondering when the big man was going to make the step up and

now that he's been given that chance, he's willing to work hard in keeping his spot.

"I would have really liked to have played in the NSL years ago, although I had opportunities, nothing really came through.

"I'm 33 years old now and I am glad its come my way as I will be doing my all in keeping my spot."

With goalkeepers peaking the older they get, Crawley is certainly going through the stages of becoming one of this country's best ones.

His decision to sign with the Mariners wasn't a tough one as Crawley was grateful that the club gave him the chance to show his worth.

"I'm really enjoying my stay here.

"If I can play in the top flight for a couple more years till the end of my career I'll be really happy.

"I'm working towards furthering my two-year contract so playing consistently is a must."

Travelling an hour and half to training at the Mariners wonderful Mingara Complex in Gosford has not taken the sting out of his competitive nature as a goalkeeper.

"I've been used to travelling to and from long distances for a while now coaching young kids

before my time at the Mariners.

"It doesn't deter me one bit."

With that has come the tag that many people have linked the Mariners keeper to and that's being the 'Mr Nice Guy' of the side.

"It's nice to know that people think of me like that as I'd rather be thought of as that than an arrogant person."

One point of concern apart from the great things that have happened so far up at the Coast has been the lack of fans which have turned up to the club's home games this season.

A good Pre-season hit-out hasn't been enough to attract the local Gosford fans to their first few home matches.

"I think as players, we've done our bit in playing as good as we have.

"The club has been busy marketing and promoting the club with help of the players so there's really not much else we can do.

"One thing we know is that we have to keep on winning as that is the best marketing tool you can get.

"We did well in the Pre-season and started off brightly in the league, but obviously we have to work harder in attracting more crowd."

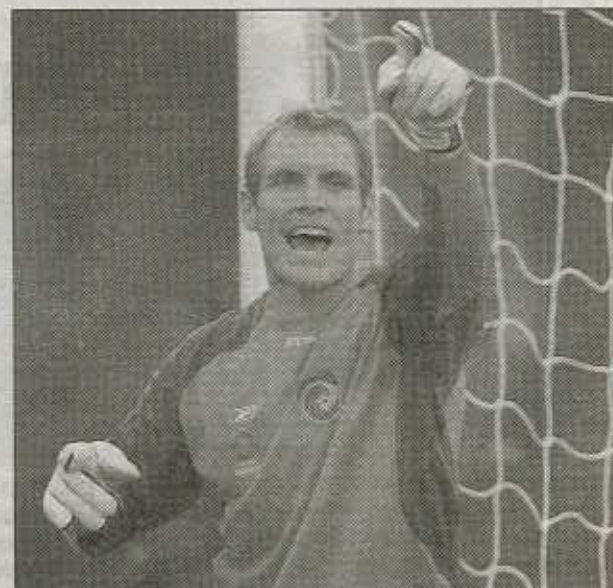
"We know that there is a good audience out there in Gosford and we were racking up 11-12 thousand fans to our games during Pre-season and that is something we are hoping to do again."

Outside of football, Crawley has kept himself rather busy with his own Elite Goalkeeping academy and has also done a few modelling stints on catwalks and on the television.

"I'm currently running my own

private coaching academy called 'Elite Goalkeeping' (www.goal-keeping.com.au) where I'm training a couple of good promising kids at the back of Gabbie Stadium.

"I've also had a few gigs here and there on T.V, commercials and on the catwalks overseas for modelling but am currently doing a few football related promotions which has kept me quite busy indeed."



They call him the Mariners saviour under the sticks, 'JC' or also known as John Crawley



SOCCER NSW LIFTOUT

EXCITEMENT BUILDS FOR NEW LOOK STATE COMPETITION

27 clubs apply for 12 places



Soccer NSW President
Tom A. Doumanis

Excitement around the state is building, with Soccer NSW only weeks away from announcing the 12 teams to contest next year's "New Look" Premier League competition.

Already, 27 applications have been received from clubs wanting to be a part of next season's competition – one that seeks to position itself as the next big thing in Australian football since the A-League. It will start on January 28, 2006 and conclude in July.

The Board of Soccer NSW has authorised its Football Committee to put forward 64 recommendations aimed at building a competition only second in quality to the A-League.

Among the recommendations are requirements for successful clubs to meet new enhanced ground criteria in seating and lighting among other areas. A two-year security of tenure will be granted to clubs, subject to an annual review, while Soccer NSW has

agreed to place a greater emphasis on marketing and sponsorship.

Indeed, these recommendations have meant many clubs have upgraded their facilities in order to meet the new rigorous requirements, in some cases at great financial expense. Soccer NSW acknowledges the process hasn't been easy for some, but concedes the change will be one for the better, both in the short and long term.

According to Soccer NSW President, Tom A. Doumanis, while there may be some misinformation and angst emanating from certain clubs over the past few weeks, Soccer NSW is committed to installing a competition which will raise the bar in terms of professionalism, both on and off the field.

"Soccer NSW will do whatever is necessary to make the new competition a success and select only those applicants who genuinely share our ambition initiatives to raise the standard of the new competition, including compliance with admission criteria," said Doumanis.

The 12 successful teams to contest the 2006 season will be announced in mid-October.

URUKALO STICKS WITH OLYMPIC

By Greg Stock

Sydney Olympic coach Michael Urukalo has reconfirmed his commitment for season 2006, knocking back a lucrative offer to coach in Dubai and Tunisia.

Having led Olympic to within a breath of a semi-final spot last season, Urukalo now has his eyes set on an A-League coaching spot, but not before he delivers Olympic fans a parting gift.

"After what we achieved last season my eyes are set on delivering long-suffering Olympic fans a championship," Urukalo said. "I've decided to stay in Australia for the sake of my children and I'll be devoting 110 percent to the club's cause to continue the job we started last season."

High on Urukalo's shopping list are five quality key position players to add to the bulk of the squad retained from last season. Matthew Gordon, Shane Lyons, Bishara Stefan, Damon Collina and Dominic Hudap have all been retained, while negotiations continue with Winter Super League top goalscorer Alex Asanovic.

ST GEORGE STADIUM SET FOR UPGRADE

By Greg Stock

Across town at St. George, coach Manny Spanoudakis has confirmed a number of last year's squad have been retained for 2006. Mirko Jurilj, Raphael Bove, Ryan Walsh, Simon Verrender and James Kovas have re-signed and will be joined by Daniel Cummins and Ben Blake from Wollongong, Chris Rigopoulos and brothers Carlo and

Marino Musumeci.

Club President Ross Gardiner has also confirmed that the long-awaited upgrade of St. George Stadium is set to commence in two weeks time in preparation for the Johnny Warren Cup in early January. The long list of improvements includes the establishment of a lounge area, the remodelling of dressing rooms, the establishment of 'tennis style' corporate boxes and the replacement of a number of seats in the top-tier of the grandstand.

"The refurbishment is long overdue, fundamentally the stadium is still a very good facility, but with a bit of TLC this work will bring it back up to being one of the better Premier League venues," Gardiner said.

Spanoudakis is also excited by the changes, with the club set to reduce the playing budget in order to fund the work.

"It's an investment in the club's future,"

said Spanoudakis. "It might mean a little short term pain, but in reality we'll again have one of the best football venues in Sydney and that is a huge boost to the game as a whole."

Spanoudakis's former deputy at St. George, Aytec Genc, has jetted out this week for three weeks in Malaysia. Genc has already made a number of key signings at new club Blacktown City, including Allan Wawi, Ivan Zelic, Daniel Watkins, Ante Deur and Roger Galayini. Bankstown City Lions have beaten St. George and Sydney United to the punch, securing the services of ex-Olympic midfielder Peter Vasiles.

In WSL news, Fraser Park head coach Ian Gillan has been reportedly released from the second year of his two-year deal with the club. Gillan remains the longest serving coach at Fraser after 3 years at the helm, which included 3 final series.

TRIP OF A LIFE TIME



Soccer NSW in conjunction with COERVER Coaching are seeking interested female players in the U13, U14 and U15 age categories to take part in its "Trip of a Lifetime" promotion.

The tour to England and Scotland will feature games against the best female youth teams the UK has to offer.

This once in a lifetime opportunity is available to players born in 1990, 1991 and 1992, who would like to trial for a representative side to play competitive games and training sessions.

The tour will be conducted from 16-28 January 2006.

COERVER Coaching will select 16 players in each age group to tour in January 2006.

COST

- \$6000 per person
- Parents are welcome to travel with the team (\$6000 per travelling parent)

Please mail or fax the form below if interested in trialling for the tour.

FAX: 02 8814 44 84
PO Box 6146 Baulkham Hills BC 2153

Player's Name: _____	
(Please print neatly)	
Touring Parent: _____	
(Please print neatly)	
Address: _____	
Post Code: _____	
Date of Birth: _____	Phone: _____
Mobile: _____	E-Mail: _____



COERVER SUMMER PROGRAM 2005

Due to the demand for quality coaching within the Sydney metropolitan area, COERVER Coaching is now offering a Summer Program for interested players.

The COERVER Summer Program 2005 will be staffed by a number of the elite head coaches and their assistants, these include, Paul Bentvelzen, Oceania Director and Oscar Gonzalez, Technical Director. The program will be conducted on Tuesday and Thursdays commencing October 11, 2005.

The program is made up of four modules:

- Module 1: 22 x 90 min Practical sessions
- Module 2: 3 x Workshops: Nutrition, Football Psychology and Parent workshops
- Module 3: 1 x Physiological Testing and Profiling
- Module 4: 1 x Game Day

AGE GROUPS

COERVER Coaching will offer the first 16 players enrolled in the following age groups.
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- Each player receives the following adidas gear
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- 1 x playing strip + sloppy joe

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SOCCER NSW
P.O. Box 6146
BAULKHAM HILLS BUSINESS CENTRE 2153

Player's Name: _____	
(Please print clearly)	
Address: _____	
Post Code: _____	
Date of Birth: _____	Phone: _____ Venue: _____
Mobile: _____	E-Mail: _____



WRITERS: Greg Stock, Paul Goodwin
PRODUCTION: Mary Quartly, Adrian Warren
PHOTOGRAPHY: Carlos Furtado
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WINTER SUPER LEAGUE
GRAND FINALS
Sunday 25th September
@Fairfax
Community Stadium
First Grade
Canterbury Marrickville vs
FC Bossy Liverpool
3:00pm
Grade 20
Dulwich Hill vs Sydney
University 12:30pm



NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE PRELIMINARY FINAL

PENALTY WINNER SENDS DULWICH PACKING

BOSSY HERO BOSKOVSKI HEADS FOR ANOTHER GRAND FINAL

By Paul Goodwin

Dulwich Hill were crying 'foul' after they were bundled out of the Super League Finals series at Ernie Smith Reserve last Sunday, by a very fortunate FC Bossy Liverpool, in a game that ended in controversial fashion.

Twice in the second half, and with no appreciable control of the game, Bossy were handed chances to score from the penalty spot, with mixed results.

Once they missed and the second time they scored the winner.

The same man took both kicks, the veteran Saso Boskovski, restored to the starting line up after a spell on the outer.

The former Bankstown star kept his nerve magnificently to give his side a 2-1 lead in the 86th minute, killing off any chance Dulwich Hill may have entertained of scoring the winner themselves.

Dulwich were clearly the better side for long periods, especially in the first half, but tended to let their guard down a little after the break.

Pressing for a second goal through a three-pronged attack of Ivo de Jesus, Tony Faria and a deeper lying Luke Vincent, Dulwich had no luck in front of goal after hitting the lead in the 34th minute.

Many near-misses had the Bossy defence fully stretched and the locals could hardly get any moves going at all in an attacking sense.

Clint Mayberry burst into the Bossy box in the 14th minute and clashed heavily with defender Damien Foxe; but referee Con Diomis waved play on. Dulwich must have been disappointed later in the game, when they were found guilty of a similar indiscretion and a penalty was awarded.

But, on this earlier occasion, their constant pressure soon told.

Faria, on the right, got the better of Bossy skipper Mirza Sehic and crossed to the far post.

Bossy keeper, Trinity Allen, stuck out a paw and the ball ran free to the left, where de Jesus converged on it.

Liverpool had defenders stationed on the goal line, but none of the three, or the keeper for that matter, was able to stop de Jesus finding the bottom right corner of the net with a sweetly-struck drive from 15 yards.

'Dully' had already gone close with volleys from Ian King and Faria, before eventually opening the scoring.

At that stage Bossy were just not in the game.

Right at the end of the first half, Bossy created their only real chance when Alex Asanovic, the competition's leading scorer clipped the ball inches over the bar.

Bossy keeper Allen, by far the busier of the two glove men in the first period, did just enough to smother Faria's attempt to extend his team's lead in the 55th minute, when he got in behind a sluggish Liverpool backline.

	FC Bossy Liverpool	2
	Dulwich Hill	1

Then, a sudden break up-field by Bossy front-running pair, Asanovic and Robbie Gomez, saw the latter get into the area before being baulked by Matthew Percy.

Diomis immediately signalled a penalty, much to the surprise of many who had seen the earlier Dulwich appeals turned down. Boskovski waited a while as Dulwich keeper Wojtek Zarzycki leapt up and down on his line and then, perhaps suitably distracted, placed his spot kick low, making the keeper's task easy in effecting the save.

This 56th minute let-off for Dulwich should have seen them do more to tighten their defence; but they continued to attack and were then counter-prone to the counter by Bossy.

More Bossy pressure on the break, led to a corner on the right in the 75th minute. Shane Webb's flag-kick was superbly flighted to the far post, where Balla Conde jumped perfectly, to head past the keeper and make it 1-1.

The game looked to be still a little hard for Bossy to win in normal time, as their creative work had lacked imagination, unlike that of their opponents. However, Foxe found Alex Canak down the right and he crossed nicely into the goalmouth.

As the keeper went up to claim the ball the whistle blew for an infringement inside the box.

It appeared that a Bossy player had been impeded as he made an attempt to meet the cross and it was another penalty, again to the surprise of many in the crowd.

This time Boskovski made no mistake.

From villain to hero, Boskovski now has another Grand Final to look forward to, after helping Bankstown to a win in the Premier League finale not that long ago.

One cannot blame Dulwich Hill, or their

supporters, for hurling an angry tirade at the officials after the match.

The team had played well enough to win the game, while the Bossy performance was largely an indifferent one.

But these things happen in football and the lone Dulwich goal was to prove inadequate on this occasion.

FC Bossy Liverpool were without Kain Rastall and Nick Bosevski for this match, and will need to lift even further if they are to trouble Canterbury-Marrickville in the Grand Final next Sunday.

F.C. Bossy Liverpool vs Dulwich Hill

F.C. BOSSY LIVERPOOL: 1 Trinity Allen - 5 Mirza Sehic (C), 16 Damien Foxe, 3 Damien Lukic - 18 Alex Canak, 10 Ballamadou Conde, 6 Saso Boskovski (2 Sasa Utjesenovic 90) 17 Peter Malakovski (11 Anthony Adamo 80), 4 Shane Webb - 19 Robbie Gomez (8 Nabil Codmani 89), 9 Alex Asanovic
Subs not used: RGK 20 Adrian Marcelino and 12 Suad Ahmed.
Coach: Mile Todorovski.

DULWICH HILL: 1 Wojtek Zarzycki - 2 Paul Cotte, 8 David O'Han, 6 Matthew Percy (C), 16 Dejan Ristovski (12 Andrew Falas 88) - 7 Clint Mayberry (9 Harry James 80), 4 Pat Darvill, 11 Ian King, 15 Luke Vincent - 10 Ivo de Jesus, 16 Tony Faria
Subs not used: RGK 20 Joshua Da Palma, 13 Scott Wells, 14 Jane Talceviski
Coaches: Scott Wells and Fernando Caneias.
Yellow Cards: FC Bossy Liverpool: Canak 65; Dulwich Hill: Percy 62, de Jesus 59, Ristovski 74, Cotte 86
Referee: Con Diomis
Assistant Referees: Ailla Stibinger and Wayne Crabb Fourth Official: Nick Asargiotis



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BONNYRIGG	KELLYVILLE	RYDE
CAMPBELLTOWN	LIVERPOOL	SHOALHAVEN
DURAL	MARRICKVILLE	ST CLAIR
EPPING	MASCOT	SUTHERLAND
FIVE DOCK	NORTHERN BEACHES	SYDNEY UNI
GLEBE	NORTH RYDE	TEMPE
GOSFORD	NORTH SYDNEY	WINDSOR
GREENACRE	PARKLEA	WOLLONGONG

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EMAIL: futsal@soccernsw.com.au

UNI ON TRACK FOR DOUBLE

By Paul Goodwin

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY 3 FRASER PARK 1

Minor Premiers Sydney University, who put in an ordinary performance a week earlier in losing to Dulwich Hill, made no such mistake against Fraser Park Dragons at Ernie Smith Reserve last Sunday.

They were never headed by a skilful, but disorganised, Fraser Park side that had trouble getting the ball up to their lively front runners.

The 'students' went ahead after only six minutes.

A cross from the right by Malik Bideratan was falling away from Fraser 'keeper Alex Augusto, who could only flap at the ball.

It fell to Matt Demetriou, who rifled the ball past the keeper to open the scoring.

The Dragons almost drew level two minutes later, when a header from skipper Samuel Jacob went just wide, with the Uni keeper looking beaten.

Andrew Pacholski's 11th minute shot was smothered inside the six yard box, as the Fraser Park side threatened periodically.

But it was mostly Sydney University, and after a cross from the left in the 16th minute, the students almost doubled their lead.

A looping header by A J Swansbra after

GRADE 20

the cross by Bideratan, saw the ball bounce onto the crossbar and away to safety.

Then Fraser hit back against the run of play.

A free kick from the left by Diego Andrade saw the ball floated to the far post, where Jacob hit the top right corner with a flying header to make it 1-1.

Augusto was kept busy thereafter.

He did well to tip a header from Demetriou over the bar in the 43rd minute, and the same Uni man was just wide with another good effort.

A one-handed save from Augusto kept Demetriou out again in the 58th minute, as the second half began to belong even more to 'the students'.

In the 63rd minute, they restored their lead. Adam Daley played the ball to the feet of Joel Savage, who laid the ball through into the box, where Michael Baghdadi needed no second invitation to strike first time and beat Augusto from close range.

Swansbra stabbed an effort wide in the 76th minute after running onto a nice pass, but moments later Sydney Uni put the game beyond doubt.

A shot from Nick Kougiou struck the right hand upright, and there to follow it up from close range and make it 3-1, was Bideratan.

Fraser Park were unable to get much going after they had equalised and were rather disappointing on this occasion.

Sydney Uni will now be looking for the double next Sunday.

Sydney University vs Fraser Park

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY: 1 Anthony Costa - 38 Jeremy Braude, 39 Joel Savage (C), 26 Elias Boukarim (22 Joe Savor 75), 23 Adam Daley - 25 James Pearce (36 Jason Deutsch 83), 19 Michael Baghdadi (35 Adrian Hammond 79), 14 Matt Demetriou, 37 Paul Roach (20 Nick Kougiou 61) - 27 Malik Bideratan, 21 A.J. Swansbra (28 Maro Kassiss 76)
Subs not used: Nil
Coach: Glenn Lockhart

FRASER PARK: 66 Alex Augusto - 23 Ian Walsh, 27 Jay Nataly, 24 Michael Lakiss, 25 Samuel Jacob (C) - 28 Diego Andrade (30 Alex Escudero 67), 37 Andrew Pacholski (22 Michael Nesbitt 77), 29 Anthony Holmes, 33 Jason Garrido - 41 Nick Mertzianakis, 26 Carlos Villazon
Subs not used: RGK Oliver Lovel, and 32 Enre Ala
Coach: Billy Henshaw
Yellow Cards: Sydney University: Boukarim 38, Baghdadi 39, Kassiss 78; Fraser Park: Garrido 66
Referee: Daniel Dewhurst
Assistant Referees: Steve McAuley and Wayne Crabb

NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE GRAND FINAL PREVIEW BY GREG STOCK



F.C. BOSSY LIVERPOOL

THREE seasons ago, F.C. Bossy Liverpool were plying their trade in the Second Division. Ambition has carried this club a long way and after winning the Winter Super League Premiership trophy at their first attempt, will they have enough in the tank to add the Championship trophy to it as well?

Bossy have been the form team of the competition and deserve their spot in the Grand Final on merit. Not only did they go through the entire first round unbeaten, they conceded the least number of goals (30) and were the third best attacking side in the league (51 goals).

Striker Alex Asanovic led the way with 24 goals in 26 games to secure the Golden Boot trophy, while Trinity Allen is amongst the early favourites to secure the Goalkeeper of the Year award.

Coach Mile Todorovski got his side past some late season wobbles in which they lost three of their last six games, and then had to lift them for the Preliminary Final after a shaky performance in the Major Semi-Final.

The only question that remains unanswered is do they have the mental toughness to lift one last time?

Players to Watch – As far as Bossy fans are concerned there is only one player to keep an eye on – Alex Asanovic. The speedy striker has had a benchmark season and won't be overawed by the attention of the Berries defenders. Ballamadou Conde in the mid-field will drive his side around with his passing game, while Damien Foxe will marshal a rock solid defence.

Game plan – Break fast and get the ball quickly to Alex Asanovic. This simple game plan has won Bossy plenty of games and it isn't likely to change for the season decider. Balla Conde and Kain Rastall are two most likely to work the midfield, pushing for the quick break with their passing game. In defence, Bossy will sit three across the back with sweeper Sasa Utjesenovic and goalkeeper Trinity Allen to mop up any mess.



PLAYER-BY-PLAYER

Trinity Allen – Still one of the best shot stoppers in the game, he has been the form goalkeeper of the competition, conceding just 30 goals in 26 league matches.

Mirza Sehic – Still a bit raw at this level, Sehic will need to play the game of his life to keep Berries striker Josh Sama quiet.

Damien Luksic – A capable stopper, likely to be given the job on the enigmatic Fadi Ghosson. Likes to push forward into the midfield and lend a hand to his side's attack.

Damien Foxe – The older brother of Soccerroo Hayden, he is big, mean and tough – a big-game player, who is uncompromising in his ability to lock down an opposition attack.

Alex Canak – Made an impression with Bonnyrigg in the Premier League, but has come on in leaps and bounds this season. Has a deft turn of pace and will trouble the Berries midfielders if he gets the opportunity to make runs from deep.

Ballamadou Conde – Guinean born midfielder with a golden right leg. Playing in his second Grand Final this season, after missing out with Bonnyrigg in the Premier League season decider.

Saso Boskovski – Just like a bottle of fine wine, this veteran just keeps getting better with age. Was man-of-the-match in the 2004 Premier League Grand Final and a well noted big game player, despite approaching 40.

Sasa Utjesenovic – The son of '74 World Cup legend Doug Utjesenovic will play as a

sweeper for Bossy, cleaning up any loose ends that get through Luksic and Foxe.

Kain Rastall – A lion-hearted midfielder who will run all day. Despite his small stature, Rastall is at his best in the tough exchanges where he can split a defence with an incisive pass, or pull off a big tackle.

Peter Malakovski – A highly underrated midfielder with a strong work ethic, played a solid game in last week's Preliminary Final against Dulwich Hill.

Shane Webb – One of the best left sided players in the league, his battle down the flank with Ben Price will be one of the highlights of the match.

Robbie Gomez – May have lost that touch of pace, but is still capable of deceiving the best defender and laying on a quality goal. A big-game player, who will rise to the occasion.

Alex Asanovic – The Golden Boot winner is the key to this game. The equation is simple – if Asanovic fires, Bossy wins.

Nabil Codmani – A veteran utility, who can fill in up front or in the midfield and do a superb job.

Anthony Adamo – A striker who is capable, but never quite kicked onto the heights we all expected. His trademark is the ability to score a goal in a tight game and he'll be the go-to man if the chips are down for Bossy.

C/BURY-MARRICKVILLE

HAVING been relegated from the 2003/4 Premier League competition, Canterbury-Marrickville could have been excused for licking their wounds and fading away quietly.

But instead they have bounced back with one of the best seasons in their long history, to finish second during the home and away season and become the first side through to the Grand Final, following their 2-0 win over F.C. Bossy Liverpool in the Major Semi-Final.

The reason for their success – quality. Maintaining the basis of their squad from the 2003/4 season the Berries recruited well to bolster some key positions and have come up trumps. Despite a couple of coaching changes mid-season, co-coaches Laki Konistis and Damon Collina have quality players in the key positions and this has taken the club to the brink of a championship trophy.

A run of six straight wins during the second round set the team up nicely for the finals, despite a controversial end to the season. In two of their final three league matches they had players sent off

at crucial stages, which cost them any chance of upstaging Bossy for the Premiership trophy. But instead of allowing such things to upset their rhythm they have regrouped, taking their frustrations out on Bossy during the Major Semi-Final, to book the first spot in the Winter Super League Grand Final.



Players to Watch – Damon Collina and John Kyriazopoulos are poles apart in style, but they share a common trait – class. Collina the tough and rugged centre half will throw his weight around in defence or attack, while Kyriazopoulos will bide his time and pounce when he senses an opportunity.

Game plan – The Berries like to use the full width of the park to great effect. Expect Ben Price and Kyriazopoulos to get plenty of ball, while Collina and Freddy Umlil will have roving commissions to run the midfield. In defence, the job will fall to veteran Paul Bourke to ensure the back four remain tight, especially on the break where Asanovic is likely to trouble them with his pace.

PLAYER-BY-PLAYER

Ivan Necevski – A state representative with an enormous future, Necevski is a man-mountain who likes to dominate his penalty box. Will need to be at his best to combat the quick fire Bossy forward line.

Adrian Molcahino – A wily veteran, Molachino does his best work in the Berries defensive line, where he'll have his work cut out trying to keep the shackles on the speedy goalscorer Alex Asanovic.

Kelvin Foster – A former Manly and A.P.I.A. stopper, Foster is one of the classiest defenders in the league, superb at marshalling the Berries back four.

Paul Bourke – A veteran with a wealth of footballing experience, Bourke is the heart and soul of the side, tough in defence and capable of igniting the attack with his incisive passing game.

Damon Collina – Inspirational at his best, Collina is an A-League calibre player capable of making the big tackle or scoring the goal to lift his side. Will need to quell his volatile nature and make sure he gets in a full 90 minutes.

Ben Price – Up and down the right hand side, the former St. George midfielder has one of the biggest hearts in the game, capable of lobbing in some nice crosses for his forwards.

Dimitri Zakilas – After winning last season's Golden Boot with 18 goals, Zakilas has been a marked man and will need to lift his game up a gear this week to make an impact.

John Kyriazopoulos – Still one of the most feared attacking weapons in the competition, the former state representative has his eyes on a Premier League jumper next season, and on the big stage will deliver the game of his life.

Freddy Umlil – A likely match winner. Watch for his combination with Damon Collina in the centre of the park, where they'll conjure up the magic for the Berries forwards.

Archie Kotsopoulos – A ten-year veteran of the club, the skipper is still one of the quickest left wingers in the game and capable of running rings around a tired defence.

Josh Sama – A striker who does his best work around a crowded penalty box. Has one of the nicest right foots in the game, but does have a propensity to hold onto the ball a touch too long.

Fadi Ghosson – The surprise packet for the Berries this season, Ghosson is the sort of player that can lie idle, only to bob up and score the most incredible goal. Will make his presence felt.

John Tsironis – Likely to come off the bench in the second half, when he can use his fresh legs to run at some tired ones and create opportunities.

Arthur Diles – Has been plagued by a succession of injuries, but is now ready to put his best foot forward.

David Abel – Rated by many as the best youngster in the league, Abel will most likely come off the bench to hold a spot in the midfield.

THE form team of the Grade 20 competition, Sydney University had to do it the hard way to make it through to the Grand Final. After enjoying the week off in the opening round of the final series



courtesy of their premiership win, a 3-1 loss to Dulwich Hill in the Major Semi-Final certainly freshened up 'the students,' who made no such mistake against Fraser Park last week in the Preliminary Final.

They ruthlessly destroyed the Dragons 3-1 to set up a rematch against their old nemesis Dulwich Hill. The test will be whether they can put aside their hoodoo against Dulwich Hill, a side they have

never beaten in three attempts this season. In round one of the league season they were defeated 1-2, and in the second round they played out a scoreless draw.

Dulwich Hill will fancy their chances after their electric performance in defeating University in the Major Semi-Final. After beating a disappointing Macarthur Rams 3-1 in the Preliminary Semi-Final, Dulwich Hill saved up their best for Uni and

snared first spot in the Grand Final. With a week off to rest some tired legs, they'll start the season decider as warm favourites to walk away with the championship trophy.



GRADE 20



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Grant opportunity for female coaches and officials to undertake further education and training in their chosen sport.

The Australian Sports Commission and the Australian Government Office for Women invite you to apply for the 2006 Sport Leadership Grants for Women. The program is aimed at providing women with an opportunity to undertake certified sport leadership training.

The 2006 Sport Leadership Grants for Women offers grants in five key categories:

- High Performance coaching and officiating
- Women in general sport leadership
- Women in disability sport
- Indigenous women
- Women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

Each category includes the following project areas:

- Coaching
- Officiating
- Management (including administration)
- Governance (board and committees)

The Program provides successful applicants with a one-off grant of up to \$5,000 for individuals (applications must be through an incorporated organisation) and up to \$10,000 for incorporated organisations.

Applications for the grants close on Friday 28 October 2005.

For grant application forms and guidelines please go to: <http://www.ausport.gov.au/women/grants.asp>

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE - GRAND FINAL RESULTS SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER AT MELITA STADIUM

Grade 13: Pennith Nepean United 3 Central Coast United 0
Grade 14: Parramatta Star 4 Schofields Scorpions 0
Grade 15: Schofields Scorpions 2 Central Coast United 1
Grade 16: Northern Tigers 2 Schofields Scorpions 1 (after extra time)
Grade 18: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 Fraser Park 1



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SOCCER NSW & COERVER COACHING would like to invite your school to compete in the first ever COERVER PRIMARY SCHOOLS CUP.

In 2005, the COERVER Coaching division of SOCCER NSW will be conducting a primary schools 7-a-side soccer competition.

This competition will be limited to 32 boys teams competing in groups of eight and will be held at Soccer NSW and Coerver Coaching headquarters, Valentine Park, Glenwood.

Each team will play seven games of 15 minutes duration, as well as finals for the winners of each pool to determine the overall winner of the COERVER PRIMARY SCHOOLS CUP. The divisions are as follows:

U/10 Boys Monday 7 November 2005 Week 5 Term 4

U/12 Boys Tuesday 8 November 2005 Week 5 Term 4

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Each school will receive the following, valued at \$550:

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One (1) free coaching session with high profile staff coach at their school. Winning teams gain entry into tournament next year for free.

The closing date for entries is the 21st October 2005

For further information please contact Soccer NSW on

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A-League News

SIR GEOFFREY CLAYES

Victory's Belgian delight

Despite the temptation of playing professional football in Europe, Geoffrey Claes' relationship in Belgium with Andy Vlahos introduced him to a new challenge on the other side of the world.

In the world of corporate recruitment, Andy would have earned himself a hefty spotter's fee, but Victory officials and fans alike are delighted that alongside captain Kev, Geoffrey can help mentor one of the most exciting young squads ever assembled in the country.

To prove his worth to Victory and the league, the former Belgian international has already been labelled as one of the best defenders in the country after just one match against an A-League opponent. John Bonacci caught up with the man Victory fans like to call Sir Geoff, and discussed football and life down under.

How have you settled in Melbourne Geoffrey?

It has been three months since I've been here. I have a nice apartment in Port Melbourne, the weather is starting to get better so that's good and the league has already started, so everything is going fine the moment.

How are you coping with driving on the left?

I was struggling in the beginning a little bit, but now it's ok. Sometimes I really have to concentrate because it's the first time in my life I've had to do it. When there are no marks on the street, I struggle.

Have you taught the boys all the Belgian swear words yet?

No, not yet. Archie and Andy know a few though.

You have quickly become a crowd favourite, and your nickname is Sir Geoff.

I read this on the website actually. It's nice to have the fans behind you. It's very important for confidence as a player and I'm happy to be one of the favourites, a good feeling.

You must have left some amazing football memories in Belgium. What would be your career highlight to date?

I would say I have two. The first would be the goal I scored against Italy when I was 21 or 22 years old, and then my time at Feyenoord. These are the highlights of my career. The goal against Italy was in my first International, they were preparing for the European championships. It was fan-

tastic, I played with champions like Enzo Scifo and it was a very nice experience.

Who would you say has had the biggest impact on your career?

Probably a coach from Belgium, George Leekans. I respect him really highly, he was a father figure to me in Belgium when I was 21 years old. He coached me in the National Team and coached me at Mouscron, which was the last team I played for in Belgium.

Is there any one defender you would say you modelled your game on?

Ronald Koeman. The calmness he had in his game was unbelievable. I shared a room with him for one year when I was at Feyenoord, but I don't really have contact with him anymore since I've been here. He is now the coach of Benfica. He always stayed calm and he was an unbelievable player. If there is one player that I look up to, it's Ronald Koeman.

How much did you know about Australia and Australian football before you got here?

I knew it wasn't that famous. About Australia, it was always a dream for me to come here and live here. During my football career I've played with a few Australians, Stephen Laybutt, Dominic Longo, Joe Spiteri and I played against Paul Okon. The dream of all Australian players is to play overseas, but we have to make it the other way around. So far it's fantastic the set up we have here.

When did you first hear of Melbourne Victory, because you must have had several offers from Europe?

In Belgium I didn't have any offers. Throughout Europe I could have gone to Austria, Portugal and Ukraine, but my mind and my heart was already here. Andy Vlahos gave my name to Ernie Merrick and Gary Cole. After he signed a contract in January, he told me that he gave them my number because they were looking for a central defender. He said they would contact me, and I was determined to come here. It was a very quick deal.

Has the start of the A-League exceeded your expectations?

Oh yes. I knew there was going to be a big crowd but not like this. In the pre-season against Adelaide there was 4,800 people and it was a good atmosphere, so if we can get a full house it will be amazing. We played alright in Sydney, and hopefully the people that saw it will be excited and will come to watch us.

Have you built a strong relationship with Richard Kitzbichler, being the two foreigners in the squad?

Richard and I do a lot of things together. We have lunch together regularly and we've been to the footy together to watch Geelong.

What have you found to be the most obvious difference between European football and football in Australia?

I think the level of football in Europe is a little higher and there is a lot more pressure in Europe than there is here.

Who would be the toughest forward you have had to deal with?

(During which time Gary Cole walks into the room and answers the question with "Gary Cole")

I would say Aruna. He played for Anderlecht and now plays for Lens in France. He's fast, unpredictable and has won the golden boot in Belgium. He would be the best I've played against because he's difficult to mark, but I'd say I've done well against him.

You have played football from a young age. Is there anything outside of football you want to achieve?

I want to find a nice wife and have kids. Just be happy, that's the main thing.

Archie has a pretty good goal celebration, what have you got planned for when you score?

I don't have one thought out yet. I might do a kangaroo. Spiteri used to do it in Belgium. I don't know now, maybe if I score something spontaneous will pop into my head.

What piece of advice would you give kids looking for a career in football?

If they want to succeed they need to work one hundred percent for it. They have to play every day, touch the ball, give everything at training and believe in yourself.

McFlynn the brave

Sydney FC midfielder Terry McFlynn was one brave player last week as he took on the Central Coast Mariners on Friday night.

McFlynn was set to fly to Ireland before the match after losing his Aunt and Uncle in a car accident, but on advice from his parents, chose to stay and play for Sydney on Friday. Sydney coaching staff had granted McFlynn permission to fly out to Ireland the day before the match where the club had organised his plane tickets.

But his parents told McFlynn that his late Uncle and Aunt "would have wanted me to play football".

The Northern Irish star has been a revelation in Sydney's midfield.

Never to shy to back out from challengers, McFlynn has been the heart and soul of the Sydney side's midfield.

Kind of like the unsung hero of the side, his experience in the lower leagues of England have put him in good stead of fighting till the end during the match.

A well-mannered player, McFlynn has been delighted with his move to Australia and believes it's a stepping stone for reigniting his career once more.



Terry McFlynn was dealt with an enormous personal loss last week

Rech snaps up final Adelaide position

Fernando Rech became Adelaide United's 20th and final signing on Monday as the squad closed its doors on any new stars.

The Brazilian was paraded in front of the local media on Monday as Adelaide United's latest signing.

Reds' boss John Kosmina coached Rech from 2000 until 2003 at Brisbane Strikers. "Fernando is an exciting player," Kosmina has said.

"He knows the system and he's got the typical Brazilian flair. He can play in attack or in the attacking midfielder's position."

Rech beat off last minute challengers from Michael Curcija and Kevin Nelson.

No stranger to the Australian game, Rech has been busy keeping fit in his native Brazil.

A former ABSW and National League player of the year, Fernando is hoping to once again re-ignite the pitches of Australia with his samba style skill.

At 31, the best is yet to come from Rech who will link up with Carl Veart and Qu Shengqing up front.



Adelaide's Samba signing - Fernando Rech (right) arrived in South Australia on Monday

Rech replaced current Adelaide assistant coach Aurelio Vidmar after he announced his retirement from the game prior to the commencement of the A-League.

Along with an NSL career with the Strikers, Rech was also part of the Parramatta Power in the NSL's final year.

AUFC CEO Michael Petrillo said, "We have agreed to terms with Rech who is currently in Brazil. "After weeks of searching around the globe, the club has decided that he is the best choice".

AUFC have agreed on a two year term with options.



Melbourne Victory's distinguished defender, Geoffrey Claes

Milicic sets stern target

'Under 15 goals is unacceptable'

By Mark Stavroulakis

Newcastle Jets star striker Ante Milicic is one tough critic when it comes to himself.

Having been established as one of this country's finest marksmen, Milicic has set his goal target for 15 goals and over.

"To be honest I am targeting 15 goals and over.

"We have 21 matches in the year and that's what I've set out, anything under that to me is unacceptable.

"I've set a high standard but that's how I've lived my whole footballing career, setting tough goals and meeting them."

It's safe to say that the 31-year-old is going from strength to strength since an injury setback early in the year which pushed back his early season form.

"I'm still adjusting to playing weekly football as fatigue has kicked in.

"Missing out the entire Pre-season plus some early matches has made it that much tougher in settling into the game.

"I am hoping that in 3-4 weeks I'll be at full strength but its encouraging knowing that I'm going through at least 60 minutes of football."

It was a memorable moment for the former Sydney United star two weeks ago when he notched up his 100th Australian goal of his career whilst condemning high flyers Sydney FC to their first A-League defeat.

"I have to say that it hasn't really sunk in yet knowing that I've scored 100 goals in my time, I'm a little disappointed that I wasn't able to do it in the old National League but scoring goals is always great."

Hitting the net 100 times, Milicic signalled out two goals that stood firmly as his greatest.

"I'd say my first ever goal in the National League for Sydney Croatia as a 17-year-old playing out

at Connor Reserve against Preston was one highlight.

"That and probably the most satisfying one would have to have been the Grand Final goal I scored against Perth Glory in Perth, I really enjoyed that one."

One interesting aspect that has seen the Jets flourish has been Ante's partnership with skilful midfielder Nicky Carle.

"He's really shown his sharpness at training and it's demonstrated on match day.

"I heard a lot about Nick before signing with the Jets but never had the chance to play alongside him.

"So far, he's set up 2 goals for me and I'll be happy if he continues this throughout the season."

One award the ace marksman hopes to achieve by the end of the year is that of gaining the honour of the A-League's Golden Boot where he will be met by stiff opposition from the likes of Dwight Yorke, Bobby Despotovski and Archie Thompson.

"I know there's a long way to go yet but I would love to pick up the A-League's first ever golden boot award.

"I won a similar award during the NSL so it's something that I hope to fulfil in the new league.

"Its going to be difficult though as a lot of sides has at least 2 proven scorers.

"I'll have a fair idea by December-January on where I'm at but provided I stay injury free, I'll be challenging it."

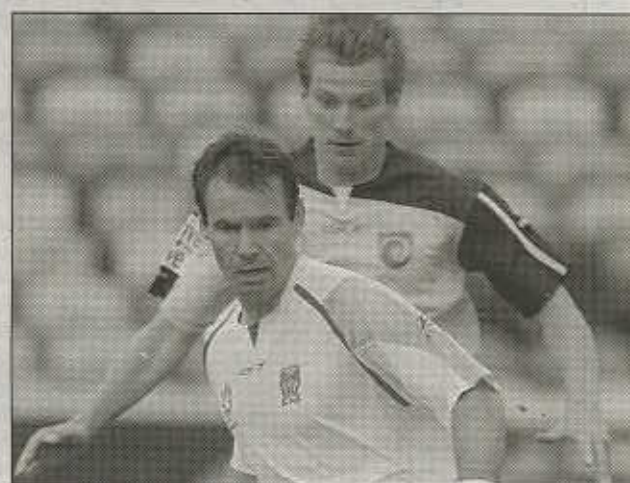
A calf injury was Milicic's centre of attention when the striker was sidelined prior to the start of the A-League season.

Ante is still being bothered by it slightly.

"I'm not really 100% yet as I said earlier, I'm still getting used to playing football on a weekly basis.

"I'm fairly fatigued and tight at the moment but as I continue to play more games, I'm getting that much stronger.

"The calf has been OK but at the



Beware of the Ante Milicic (front) goal scoring rampage set to strike at an A-League pitch near you

moment I'd have to say that I'm feeling at 70%."

Asked whether the Jets have turned the corner for the better after a significant victory over Sydney, Milicic believed so.

"I hope that we have turned the corner for the better.

"As I said before the season started, we looked very strong on paper but that wasn't enough in modern day football.

"I think we are getting better as weeks progress, the intensity is lifting so here's hoping for a string of good results."

Mariners pillar of strength

Tobin enlightens Central Coast charge

You know your clubs in safe hands when one of Australia's most respect footballers in Alex Tobin is involved.

The Central Coast Mariners, led by the expert managerial skills of Scottish genius' Lawrie McKinna and Ian Ferguson, have added a third member to their strong partnership, with Tobin lending a helping hand.

A legend in the old National League, having made 522 appearances which has been a record unequalled by any domestic competition of any sporting code in the country, Tobin has been impressed with how the new league has taken shape.

"I firmly believe that the standard has been good. You only need to look at the table so far and its closeness, there are no run-a-way winners nor are there any teams lagging behind which is all good for the league.

"We've also had many mixed results which has kept the competition exciting.

"In terms of crowds, we have started off well. I think they've been entertained so far with a high blend of football and I know it's been enough so far in convincing first time followers to come back to the matches."

Spending a full 21 seasons with mostly Adelaide City and towards the end of his career with the Parramatta Power, Tobin was no stranger to the National League.

His tall timber presence in the back made it almost impossible for opposing strikers to attack at his goals alongside another legend in Milan Ivanovic.

Asked what differences were seen with the old NSL and the A-League, Tobin replied.

"First thing, all the clubs are profes-

sional, train everyday have up to date facilities and their level of fitness and skill has improved.

"Its modern day football at its best, whereas we only had what two or three sides that called themselves professional sides during the NSL.

"In terms of attendances, well I think we are on our way in beating that of the averages that we were used to.

"I think the one state per team idea has worked really well and as time moves on, so will the averages but overall, the A-League is a true sign of modern day football."

As stated earlier, his involvement with the Mariners has been seen as one of the best signings the club has done in its inaugural first year.



The experienced presence of NSL Legend Alex Tobin has served as a major recruitment for the Central Coast Mariners in the A-League this season

The role of Development Manager has seen the 39-year-old swap the boots for the bench, eyeing and helping out his managerial staff and players when needed.

"It's great that the Mariners have given me the chance to do this and it is brilliant working alongside both Lawrie and Ian as they are ultimate professionals.

"Its personally good for me also as I have kept fit training with the squad alongside Ian Ferguson during training drills.

"The roster of 20 players has made it a little hard filling up game situations so its been useful joining in with the boys.

"Overall, my role is keeping a close eye on players and offering advice when asked by anyone from the club as to how they are doing and let me tell you its a lot harder watching the game on the bench then playing, the anxiety levels are amazing."

The people of Gosford have been treated to a small taste of what football really is with the Mariners however the crowd attendances haven't been all that great.

The former Socceroos legend believes that there is no point of hitting the panic button yet but that things were to take shape slowly.

"We haven't had the best of luck with our home matches so far with the weather and what have you but we know there is a good football market out there in the Coast.

"The good aspect is that the people of the Central Coast are talking about the Mariners and I know we will get the ten thousand crowd and maintain it as weeks go by.

"It's been a reasonable start for us so

I'm not too concerned yet but I know it will grow and grow very soon."

With 113 Socceroos appearances during his time as a player, Tobin is hoping that the Australian side realise their dream in competing at the World Cup in Germany next year.

"I was in Marrakesh for the decision which has seen us take the advantage of playing at home for the second leg and I think its worked well for our chances in qualifying.

"To have the opportunity to make the finals in front of our Australian fans will be a driving force behind the side.

"We need to do whatever it takes in getting a positive result in South America. Known for being a hostile environment, Australia needs to be confident in achieving a result and bringing the decider to Sydney.

"We all know how difficult it is to play a team that has played more matches than us so I think there won't be any difference whether we play Uruguay, Colombia or Chile.

"I believe we have a good enough side to do it and I am confident that we will be in Germany next year."

Alex was also fond of Australia's acceptance into the Asian Confederation.

"Being involved in Asia next year gives us a building block for strengthening the side for the next World Cup as instead of playing two meaningful matches a year, we'll be playing up to ten or more."

The South Australian born and bred football lover has really kept himself active as an ex-player of the game.

He's currently the Ambassador for Qantas at all Socceroos matches, the manager of the Australian beach football side

and has also dreams of once more donning the suit and tie on television with quiz show 'Temptation'.

"In terms of the beach football side, it was a brilliant experience alongside Coach Adrian Santrac over at Rio De Janeiro this year.

"It was amazing to see a 15,000 capacity packed stadium at Copacabana Beach which was truly a great experience for the boys.

"All the team enjoyed it and even though we didn't do so well, we know that there could be a new market to work on here in Australia as we have the beach culture to do so."

If many of you can remember, Alex was involved in 'Sale of the Century, battle of the football codes' a couple of years back where he served the game of soccer well and won the battle.

Playing against the likes of Rugby Union's George Gregan, AFL's Billy Brownless and League's Mario Fenech, Tobin took out the title for smartest footballer, which was a huge achievement for the code of soccer back then.

"It was a lot of fun, I remember winning \$80,000 and a car for a bloke I was playing for as that's how the system worked then, it was amazing.

"Its funny you've mentioned this as my two young boys and wife have been harassing me to compete in 'Temptation' and at the moment I am considering it (laughs)."

Known as a true gentleman of the game of football, his iconic status is one that Australia has not forgotten and with the Mariners, the former Socceroo skipper's avenues of reaching other successes has only just begun.

Tony Peters meets round ball challenge

By Joe Russo

Tony Peters has been a household name in rugby league. For over 20 years he was the leading reporter for Channel 10 in that code, but in soccer he is a relatively unknown quantity.

In a recent interview on Sunday Night Soccer on 98.5 FM, Peters, who has been appointed as the Executive Manager of Commercial Services at Soccer NSW, outlined why he took on his new role and exactly what he envisions for the round ball game.

"Well I guess the time's right - it's a big challenge but it's a challenge that I'm excited about and that's why I made the move," he proudly told listeners.

"I see soccer as being a sleeping giant with enormous potential and I wouldn't have got on board if I didn't think that that potential couldn't be fulfilled."

However, after such a high profile job in rugby league, will he miss the code that provided him with a living for so long?

"It comes down to one very sim-

ple thing: everything is there in front of us in soccer and it's just a matter of how we go about doing it," he said.

"All the resources are there, the potential is there and the talent is there. I must say that rugby league and rugby union will be very concerned if we get our act together which I'm sure we will."

In the past some parts of the media haven't really given soccer its fair share of exposure but, nevertheless, there are very keen soccer supporters in some very influential media positions. So how does Tony Peters see this as benefiting our game?

"This is what it comes down to: the only publicity that soccer tends to generate is negative publicity. What we've decided to do, and we do have enormous support in the media, is to promote the grassroots level of soccer and that way we are going to get the attention," he said.

"Rugby league is strong from the top to the bottom and soccer's strength is the grassroots. 215,000 people play it and we [Soccer NSW] are putting our game plan into place. We are working hard to



Soccer NSW's new Executive Manager of Commercial Services, Tony Peters

keep our existing sponsors and we are already attracting some very exciting new sponsors.

"We have re-structured, we have a marketing team of people and we have a media section under Robert Grasso. Our team is going to be very very strong off the field."

With the start of the A-League, he was asked his opinion of the new competition and just how important the A-League is in the bigger

scheme of things for the game?

"I was one of the 25,200 people at the Sydney Football Stadium to see Sydney FC play the Melbourne Victory," Peters stated. "I thought it was a wonderful night, the atmosphere was good, the spectacle was good and what a great way to start the whole situation off."

"Obviously it is in our best interest at Soccer NSW that Sydney FC and the whole A-League is success-

ful because we flow off the back of that. It is imperative, as far as we are concerned, that the A-League does work."

"Sydney FC and the A-League have now got to sustain these crowds over the whole season to be able to give it something to work on at least."

With regards to Soccer NSW he asked to outline what he sees as the most exciting challenge before him at the moment.

"The most exciting thing is that we have new people very interested in coming on board," Peters said. "The most important part for us is to get some sort of television exposure and we are working very hard towards getting that lined up for the new streamlined Premier League competition."

"If we succeed in getting that then we might surprise a lot of people. We are very enthusiastic and very keen and, as they say, actions speak louder than words, so stay tuned because we are going to get things done."

The grassroots of soccer have often been described as the game's strength and Tony Peters is certain-

ly very interested in promoting this aspect.

"I am very much in favour of the grassroots," he said. "Most people in Soccer NSW are involved with the Premier League and they care about the Premier League in particular, but I'm coming from the other way around."

"I want grassroots soccer to be exposed and publicised as much as possible; that's where our future is in this game. They are the people that we have to showcase and they're our real talent and that's no disrespect to our Premier League players."

"If we are going to sell our game, we are going to sell it through the grassroots level. The number of women playing soccer has increased 26% over the last two years."

"I went to a presentation night at the Granville Association the other night, the oldest association of soccer in Australia at 102 years old, and they are the sort of organisations I want to help."

Sunday Night Soccer is on radio 98.5 FM in Sydney every Sunday at 10.00pm.

Bleiberg wants 'Fortress Suncorp'

Queensland Roar coach Miron Bleiberg is hoping wins in the next few weeks will instill fear into other teams travelling to Brisbane.

Bleiberg said the Roar wanted to turn their Suncorp Stadium base into a "fortress".

Bleiberg said it was important for his side to bounce back at home. "That was our plan before the season started (to make it a fortress) because of the uniqueness of our weather and the fact that we are fit and hungry," he said.

"Not so much at this time of the year but later on because we will get more for

our points at home and what we get away, we get away."

"So that's why when we go away we try to win but have the option that if we lose, it's not the end of the world. But there will not be excuses for

not getting the points at home."

Corporate box and suite sales have also increased after the success of the club's season opener on August 28 that attracted 20,725 fans.



Roar players want to celebrate as much as they can at their 'fortress' in Suncorp Stadium

Corica: 'Don't judge me on red card'

Sydney FC midfielder Steve Corica has revealed his dismissal against Newcastle Jets was the first in his career. The Australia international told 'the Australian':

"To be honest, I haven't even seen a replay of the incident and I haven't read or heard any reaction (to the tackle)."

"I know I went in to tackle the player and missed. As he got away from me I tried to chase down the ball. There was never any other intention other than to get the ball. Whatever happened, I don't think people should judge me on that."

"I have been a professional footballer since I was 17 and I have never been involved in anything like that. In fact, I have never been sent off in my 15-year career in the top flight."



Steve Corica: Was sent off for the first time in his career against the Jets

Club v Country for Cahill



Everton star Timmy Cahill could reconsider his international future

Everton has urged Australian international Tim Cahill to reconsider his commitment to the club, blaming his below-par performances this season on international duty.

Cahill's club performances in the early part of this season has not lived up to the high standard he set in the last campaign.

Cahill barely had any break since last season, being on international duty at the Confederations Cup, and then flying to Australia for the recent Oceania World Cup qualifier against the Solomon Islands.

"I am concerned. He's not as dynamic maybe as he was. But we've seen that for a wee

while," Everton manager David Moyes said.

"Because we know he can score a goal you don't want him not in your team, but maybe we have to look at giving him a rest somewhere along the line."

"He will need to start looking at how (international duty) is going to affect him."

"We pay him, he's employed by us, so we expect his performances to be for us."

"I might need to look at it if I don't see much improvement, but it would be wrong to single him out."

"He's going to have to improve his form and it is the same for many."

Slater backs Sydney FC



Former Socceroos star Robbie Slater believes the best is yet to come from Sydney FC

Former Australian star Robbie Slater says it is too early to write off Sydney FC despite the club's slow start to the Hyundai A-League season.

Tipped as the team to beat in the inaugural season of the Australian competition, Sydney has not been the side that many media have set them out to be yet.

But former Socceroo Slater says Sydney FC and its coach Pierre Littbarski should be given more time before they are written off.

"They are still a good side," Slater told The Australian. "They have some quality players and can certainly turn things around very quickly. Yes, they have some problems but, for me, they are good ones."

"One problem is that they have three quality strikers - Dwight Yorke, Sasho Petrovski and David Zdrilic - but three into two spots doesn't go. And it is the same in midfield where they have five players competing for four spots."



Victorian Premier League's Night of Nights

Magnacca and Koutrouvelis bathe in Gold Medal glory

Preston Lions Anthony Magnacca and Box Hill Inter's Georgia Koutrouvelis are the proud winners of the 2005 Vodafone

stints in the NSL with Canberra Cosmos, South Melbourne and Newcastle United. He also spent the 2001 season with Norwegian side SK

Brann.

"This is just totally unexpected", said the 27 year old attacking midfielder last night. "I was close to giving the game away at the start of the year but I stuck at it and I guess its paid off".

The Vodafone Gold Medal winner joined Preston this year and netted 6 goals in 26 appearances for the Lions.

This year's Women's winner is from the top shelf. Georgia Koutrouvelis won the award a massive 11 votes clear of second placed Katia Tavolaro of Keilor Park.

Koutrouvelis has been part of the National Training Program since 2002 and has played the last few seasons with Victoria Vision in the Women's National League. This win will almost certainly translate into a place in this years Vision squad for the fast approaching summer season.

Georgia's side plays off in this weeks Vodafone Premier League Grand Final against Cranbourne Comets and after the initial euphoria of the victory her thoughts quickly turned to her team.

"This is fantastic for me individually, but it is a team game. I couldn't have done it without my team mates and we have an even bigger prize to play for on Sunday" said the Box Hill Inter star.

In other awards on the evening, Preston Lions striker Serkan Oksuz taking out the Covo Sports Under 21 Player of the Year. Oksuz has attracted interest from A-League club Queensland Roar on the back of a sterling season in the VPL that netted him 8 goals.

In the tightly contested Tiger Turf Goalkeeper of the Year, it was South Melbourne's Dean Anastasiadis who

edged out several other worthy contenders. The Nike Leading Goalscorer for the second season in succession was Essendon's Michael

Curcija.

Rody Vargas, Green Gully's versatile defender/midfielder won the TVH Bill Fleming Media Award, the



Women's Gold Medal winner Georgia Koutrouvelis flanked by Vodafone State Manager Ed Goff (far left) and FFV Chairman Manny Galanos



A general view of the Grand Hyatt before the announcement of the Gold Medal winners for both the Men and Women.



Comedian Vince Sorrenti was a 'hit' with the football public with his crazy antics and jokes



MC of the evening Tiffany Cherry (left) shown with special guest, Melbourne Victory's influential skipper Kevin Muscat

Gold Medal Award for the fairest and best players in the Men's and Women's Vodafone Premier League.

Magnacca blitzed the field in the Men's competition, winning Victoria's highest individual award 9 points ahead of his nearest rival.

Magnacca began his career with Fawkner Blues and has enjoyed

2005 Vodafone Gold Medal — Men's Leader Board

Anthony Magnacca	Preston	35
Robert Liparoti	Heidelberg	26
Steve Iosifidis	Essendon	19
Sam Poutakidis	Oakleigh	18
*Ante Deak	St Albans	18
Zoran Petrevski	Fawkner/Whittlesea	17
Doug Mladenovic	Allona Magic	16
Tony Neceski	Sunshine	15
*Vaughan Coveny	South Melbourne	14
Jeffrey Fleming	Green Gully	14



Preston Lions star Anthony Magnacca (2nd from left) claimed the biggest award of the night, Victoria's most prestigious player shown alongside Vodafone State Manager Ed Goff (far left), VPL Chairman Vasco Stojceviski (2nd from right) and the FFV's Chairman Manny Galanos (far right)

media's choice for player of the season.

While finally Heidelberg's Phil Stubbins was voted the Only Sport Coach of the Year for his efforts in taking the Bergers to the Grand Final in their first season back in the top league.

*By Nick Dennis

2005 Vodafone Gold Medal — Women's Leader Board

Georgia Koutrouvelis	Box Hill	36
Katia Tavolaro	Keilor Park	25
*Belinda Pannella	Brimbank	18
Cindy Dussoye	Ashburton	16
Tonje Smedholen	Bendigo	16
Amy Skvarc	Bendigo	16
*Caroline McEvoy	Cranbourne	16
*Sarah Groenewald	Heidelberg Utd	16
Andrea Totsidis	Ashburton	15
Melanie Camilleri	Keilor Park	14



'The Road to Germany 2006'



It's little over 9 months until the world stops yet again for the most amazing footballing spectacle in the world — the World Cup.

Germany has its chance to host the famous event from the 9th June right through to the 9th July where 32 countries will do battle in finding out who will be the World Cup winner for 2006.

Below is a list of all the statistics you need to know on who could be the 32 sides set to take the world stage in Germany.

AFRICAN ZONE

Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Togo	9	6	2	1	17	6	20
Senegal	9	5	3	1	18	8	18
Zambia	9	5	1	3	11	10	16
Congo	9	3	1	5	8	11	10
Mali	9	2	2	5	11	11	8
Liberia	9	1	1	7	3	22	4

Remaining Fixtures

09-Oct-2005	Congo vs Togo
07-Oct-2005	Senegal vs Mali
07-Oct-2005	Liberia vs Zambia

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ghana	9	5	3	1	13	4	18
Congo DR	9	4	3	2	12	8	15
South Africa	9	5	0	4	10	12	15
Burkina Faso	9	4	0	5	12	11	12
Cape Verde Is.	9	3	1	5	8	11	10
Uganda	9	2	1	6	4	13	7

Remaining Fixtures

08-Oct-2005	Cape Verde Islands vs Ghana
07-Oct-2005	South Africa vs Congo DR
07-Oct-2005	Uganda vs Burkina Faso

Group 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon	9	6	2	1	17	9	20
Cote d'Ivoire	9	6	1	2	17	6	19
Egypt	9	5	1	3	25	14	16
Libya	9	3	3	3	8	9	12
Sudan	9	1	3	5	5	19	6
Benin	9	0	2	7	8	23	2

Remaining Fixtures

09-Oct-2005	Cameroon vs Egypt
07-Oct-2005	Sudan vs Cote d'Ivoire
07-Oct-2005	Benin vs Libya

Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Angola	9	5	3	1	11	6	18
Nigeria	9	5	3	1	16	6	18
Zimbabwe	9	4	3	2	12	9	15
Gabon	9	2	3	4	11	13	9
Algeria	9	1	4	4	8	15	7
Rwanda	9	1	2	6	6	15	5

Remaining Fixtures

09-Oct-2005	Rwanda vs Angola
07-Oct-2005	Gabon vs Algeria
07-Oct-2005	Nigeria vs Zimbabwe

Group 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tunisia	9	6	2	1	23	7	20
Morocco	9	5	4	0	15	5	19
Guinea	8	3	2	3	10	8	11
Kenya	9	3	1	5	8	14	10
Botswana	9	3	0	6	9	16	9
Malawi	8	0	3	5	8	23	3

Remaining Fixtures

08-Oct-2005	Malawi vs Kenya
07-Oct-2005	Botswana vs Guinea
07-Oct-2005	Tunisia vs Morocco

*The top five teams in each group qualify for Germany

ASIAN ZONE

Remaining Fixtures

Play-offs
Bahrain v Uzbekistan to be played 8th and 12 Oct
*Winner of this tie plays the fourth-placed side from the CONCACAF zone for a place in Germany.

EUROPEAN ZONE

Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Netherlands	10	9	1	0	25	3	28
Czech Republic	10	8	0	2	32	10	24
Romania	11	7	1	3	19	10	22
Finland	10	5	1	4	21	15	16
Macedonia FYR	11	2	2	7	11	24	8
Andorra	11	1	2	8	4	31	5
Armenia	11	1	1	9	6	25	4

Remaining Fixtures

12-Oct-2005	Netherlands vs Macedonia FYR
12-Oct-2005	Finland vs Czech Republic
12-Oct-2005	Andorra vs Armenia
08-Oct-2005	Czech Republic vs Netherlands
08-Oct-2005	Finland vs Romania

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ukraine	11	7	3	1	16	5	24
Turkey	11	5	5	1	22	9	20
Greece	10	5	3	2	14	8	18
Denmark	10	4	4	2	21	11	16
Albania	10	4	0	6	9	17	12
Georgia	10	2	3	5	14	24	9
Kazakhstan	10	0	0	10	5	27	0

Remaining Fixtures

12-Oct-2005	Kazakhstan vs Denmark
12-Oct-2005	Albania vs Turkey
12-Oct-2005	Greece vs Georgia
08-Oct-2005	Denmark vs Greece
08-Oct-2005	Ukraine vs Albania
08-Oct-2005	Georgia vs Kazakhstan

Group 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	10	7	3	0	30	4	24
Slovakia	10	5	4	1	23	8	19
Russia	10	5	4	1	18	11	19
Latvia	11	4	3	4	18	18	15
Estonia	10	4	2	4	14	16	14
Liechtenstein	11	2	2	7	12	21	8
Luxembourg	10	0	0	10	4	41	0

Remaining Fixtures

12-Oct-2005	Portugal vs Latvia
12-Oct-2005	Luxembourg vs Estonia
12-Oct-2005	Slovakia vs Russia
08-Oct-2005	Portugal vs Liechtenstein
08-Oct-2005	Russia vs Luxembourg
08-Oct-2005	Slovakia vs Estonia

Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	8	4	4	0	17	6	16
France	8	4	4	0	9	1	16
Israel	9	3	6	0	13	9	15
Ireland Republic	8	3	4	1	11	5	13
Cyprus	8	1	1	6	8	15	4
Faroe Islands	9	0	1	8	3	25	1

Remaining Fixtures

12-Oct-2005	France vs Cyprus
12-Oct-2005	Ireland Republic vs Switzerland
08-Oct-2005	Cyprus vs Ireland Republic
08-Oct-2005	Israel vs Faroe Islands
08-Oct-2005	Switzerland vs France

Group 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	8	5	2	1	14	7	17
Norway	8	3	3	2	10	7	12
Slovenia	8	3	3	2	10	9	12
Scotland	8	2	4	2	6	6	10
Belarus	8	1	4	3	11	13	7
Moldova	8	1	2	5	4	13	5

Remaining Fixtures

12-Oct-2005	Belarus vs Norway
12-Oct-2005	Slovenia vs Scotland
12-Oct-2005	Italy vs Moldova
08-Oct-2005	Norway vs Moldova
08-Oct-2005	Scotland vs Belarus
08-Oct-2005	Italy vs Slovenia

Group 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	9	8	0	1	26	7	24
England	8	6	1	1	14	4	19
Austria	8	3	3	2	13	11	12
Northern Ireland	8	2	3	3	8	13	9
Azerbaijan	9	0	3	6	1	19	3
Wales	8	0	2	6	5	13	2

Remaining Fixtures

12-Oct-2005	Austria vs Northern Ireland
12-Oct-2005	Wales vs Azerbaijan
12-Oct-2005	England vs Poland
08-Oct-2005	Northern Ireland vs Wales
08-Oct-2005	England vs Austria

Group 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Serbia Montenegro	8	4	4	0	13	1	16
Spain	8	3	5	0	11	3	14
Bosnia	8	3	4	1	9	8	13
Belgium	8	3	2	3	15	8	11
Lithuania	8	2	3	3	7	6	9
San Marino	8	0	0	8	2	31	0

Remaining Fixtures

12-Oct-2005	Lithuania vs Belgium
12-Oct-2005	San Marino vs Spain
12-Oct-2005	S & M'tenegro vs B-Herzegovina
08-Oct-2005	Belgium vs Spain
08-Oct-2005	Lithuania vs Serbia & Montenegro
08-Oct-2005	B-Herzegovina vs San Marino

Group 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	8	7	0	1	27	2	21
Croatia	8	6	2	0	20	5	20
Hungary	8	4	1	3	13	12	13
Bulgaria	8	3	2	3	14	16	11
Iceland	9	1	1	7	13	24	4
Malta	9	0	2	7	3	31	2

Remaining Fixtures

12-Oct-2005	Sweden - Iceland
12-Oct-2005	Malta - Bulgaria
12-Oct-2005	Hungary - Croatia
08-Oct-2005	Bulgaria - Hungary
08-Oct-2005	Croatia - Sweden

*14 teams qualify for the European section (The 1st eight teams automatically qualify while the remaining six spots are fought between the best second placed sides in all the groups)

CONCACAF ZONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	7	6	1	0	13	4	19
USA	7	6	0	1	14	4	18
Guatemala	7	2	2	3	9	9	8
Costa Rica	7	2	1	4	7	11	7
Trinidad and Tobago	7	1	1	5	5	12	4
Panama	7	0	3	4	3	10	3

Remaining Fixtures

12-Oct-2005	Trinidad and Tobago vs Mexico
12-Oct-2005	USA vs Panama
12-Oct-2005	Guatemala vs Costa Rica
08-Oct-2005	Panama vs Trinidad and Tobago
08-Oct-2005	Mexico vs Guatemala
08-Oct-2005	Costa Rica vs USA

*The first 3 teams go through to Germany while the fourth placed side takes on the winner of the Asian match between Bahrain and Uzbekistan

STH AMERICAN ZONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	16	9	4	3	27	16	31
Brazil	16	8	6	2	31	16	30
Ecuador	16	8	2	6	23	19	26
Paraguay	16	7	4	5	22	22	25
Uruguay	16	5	6	5	22	28	21
Colombia	16	5	5	6	22	15	20
Chile	16	5	5	6	17	21	20
Venezuela	16	5	3	8	20	24	18
Peru	16	3	6	7	16	25	15
Bolivia	16	4	1	11	18	32	13

Remaining Fixtures

12-Oct-2005	Chile - Ecuador
12-Oct-2005	Paraguay - Colombia
11-Oct-2005	Peru - Bolivia
11-Oct-2005	Brazil - Venezuela
11-Oct-2005	Uruguay - Argentina
09-Oct-2005	Ecuador - Uruguay
08-Oct-2005	Venezuela - Paraguay
08-Oct-2005	Colombia - Chile
08-Oct-2005	Argentina - Peru
08-Oct-2005	Bolivia - Brazil

*Top four teams qualify for Germany while the fifth placed side takes on Australia for the final World Cup spot in November.

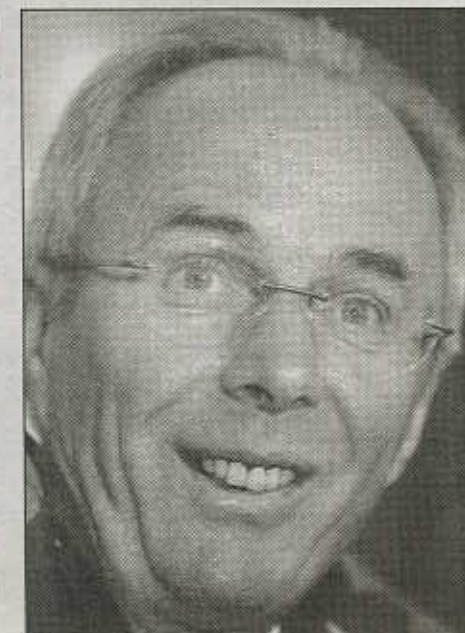
Qualified Teams

These teams have already qualified for Germany 2006:

*Japan, *Iran, *Korea Republic, *Saudi Arabia, *USA, *Mexico, *Argentina, *Brazil, *Ukraine, *Germany



Ukraine's Oleg Blokhin (top) has celebrated his nation's run into Germany next year while England's Sven Goran Eriksson has yet to see his team's fate





FIFA WORLD RANKINGS (September)

No.	Country	Pts
1	Brazil	839
2	Netherlands	785
3	Argentina	778
4	Czech Republic	777
5	Mexico	771
6	France	770
7	USA	768
8	Spain	750
9	Portugal	743
10	Sweden	740
11	England	738
12	Turkey	731
13	Italy	725
14	Denmark	721
15	Germany	718
16	Japan	716
17	Poland	705
18	Iran	702
19	Costa Rica	700
20	Greece	699
21	Republic of Ireland	694
22	Cameroon	688
23	Tunisia	687
24	Croatia	686
25	Uruguay	680
26	Colombia	677
26	Korea Republic	677
28	Saudi Arabia	675
29	Nigeria	672
30	Russia	669
31	Egypt	662
32	Romania	660
33	Ecuador	658
34	Paraguay	656
35	Senegal	652
36	Morocco	649
37	Norway	647
38	Switzerland	643
39	Ukraine	636
40	Finland	629
41	Jamaica	623
42	South Africa	622
43	Honduras	620
44	Israel	616
45	Bulgaria	613
45	Slovakia	613
47	Belgium	608
49	Zimbabwe	598
50	Australia	593
50	Côte d'Ivoire	593
52	Slovenia	590
53	Bahrain	588
54	Togo	585
55	Mali	578
56	Trinidad and Tobago	577
57	Guatemala	571
57	Uzbekistan	571
57	Venezuela	571
60	China PR	569
61	Kuwait	567
62	Ghana	566
63	Latvia	564
64	Zambia	563
65	Angola	562
66	Hungary	557
67	Bosnia-Herzegovina	555
68	Iraq	554
69	Jordan	552
70	Peru	551
71	Belarus	548
72	Congo DR	545
73	Cuba	544
74	Scotland	542
75	Qatar	541
76	Chile	538
76	Panama	538
78	Oman	537
79	Austria	533
80	Libya	532
81	Estonia	526
82	Wales	521
83	Algeria	519
84	Canada	516
85	Korea DPR	515
86	Albania	514
87	Kenya	509
88	United Arab Emirates	508
89	Burkina Faso	504
89	Guinea	504

Microchip experiment in Peru

It looks just like any ordinary football but the Adidas "smartball" that made its official debut in the FIFA Under-17 world championship in Peru on Friday could change the face of football forever.

The smartball is fitted with a tiny microchip designed to help a referee decide whether the ball has crossed the line completely for a goal to be scored - and will also be used to determine whether the ball has gone out of play.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter, traditionally a staunch opponent of technology have his blessing to the experiment in Peru and has said that if it is successful, it can be used in the World Cup finals in Germany next summer.

The ball was unveiled in Lima and FIFA Secretary-General Urs Linsi told Reuters the "smartball" and so-called goal-line technology, developed by Adidas with German company Cairas AG and the German Fraunhofer Institute - was in no way a substitute for the eyes and experience of the referee.

"The referee is in charge, he's the boss on the pitch and that won't change. This is an aid to the referee," he said.

The microchip - less than half an inch (15 millimetres) in size - sends out a radio signal when the ball crosses the touchline, as if it had touched an electric fence.

That signal is relayed by up to 12 antennae positioned in the corners of the pitch to a computer which then sends a message to a watch worn

on the referee's wrist in less than one second, Guenter Pfau, Adidas' manager for relations with FIFA, said.

The message makes a virtually inaudible signal and the referee need never even use the technology, unless he is in doubt, Pfau said.

If so, a quick glance at the watch will reveal the word "goal" or no message, indicating no goal. Any goal messages are stored in the watch's memory with the time logged.

Linsi said the referee would always have the final say and could ignore even a goal message from the smartball.

The smartball has been tested once, in February, at an unofficial friendly in Nuremberg, but Friday will be its first official outing.

Members of the International Football Association Board - football's ultimate law-making body - will travel to Peru to see the experiment in some of this month's games.

A report will then be submitted to the next meeting of the Board in the spring and if the experiment has been deemed a success a decision will be taken on whether it will be used in the World Cup finals in Germany next summer.

Too much love: Bayern boss

Bayern Munich's new spirit of dressing room harmony has gone too far for the club's hard-nosed manager Uli Hoeness, who is starting to sound nostalgic for the "FC Hollywood" years.

"Good team spirit is a fine thing to have and I'm someone who likes a harmonious atmosphere," Hoeness said.

"But there is a danger if they all hug each other all the time. At the moment there's a bit too much love for each other in this squad."

Bayern, Germany's most successful club, picked up the "FC Hollywood" tag during the 1990s when a squad

featuring high-earning, high-profile players regularly aired grievances in public, while the media featured endless reports of bickering.

"We would win every time if we helped each other," shocked French defender Willy Sagnol said during his first season at the club in 2001.

"But that's not always the case. The players talk about internal problems in public."

Since the arrival of the disciplinarian Felix Magath as coach at the start of last season, there has been barely a whisper of trouble from the dressing room, despite huge competition for places.



Bayern's strict headmaster Felix Magath

Netherlands in Customs trouble

The Netherlands Under-17 squad had their kit confiscated by Customs when they arrived in Peru for the World Cup last week.

The squad were forced to borrow kit from the University of Piura where they are training for the competition.

Ramon Camminati, manager of the Piura venue, said: "We'll write to the

Customs authorities to accelerate the process of returning the equipment."

"We want Holland to train with all their own stuff and to play the World Cup thinking only about football."

The Netherlands are in Group D, which is based in Piura, alongside Brazil, Qatar and Gambia.

FIFA WORLD RANKINGS (September)

No.	Country	Pts
91	Haiti	500
92	Iceland	493
93	Sudan	491
94	Thailand	485
95	Lithuania	476
96	Botswana	475
96	Indonesia	475
96	FYR Macedonia	475
99	Singapore	474
100	Bolivia	469
101	Northern Ireland	464
102	Syria	463
103	Cyprus	462
104	Georgia	461
105	Gabon	460
106	Rwanda	456
107	Moldova	436
108	Malawi	432
109	Turkmenistan	428
110	Uganda	423
111	New Zealand	420
112	Vietnam	417
113	Congo	415
114	Azerbaijan	411
115	Armenia	408
116	Malaysia	406
117	St. Lucia	403
118	El Salvador	398
118	Lebanon	398
120	Hong Kong	394
121	Barbados	389
122	Cape Verde Islands	386
123	Liechtenstein	375
124	St. Kitts and Nevis	373
125	Andorra	368
126	Benin	365
127	Malta	361
128	Ethiopia	357
128	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	357
130	Mozambique	356
131	Yemen	351
132	Liberia	348
132	Swaziland	348
134	Faroe Islands	344
134	India	344
136	Palestine	341
137	Tahiti	337
138	Solomon Islands	336
139	Fiji	334
140	Tajikistan	314
141	Myanmar	313
142	Burundi	311
142	Maldives	311
142	Sri Lanka	311
145	Mauritius	306
146	Kazakhstan	304
147	Lesotho	298
148	Vanuatu	293
149	Grenada	281
150	Madagascar	273
151	Surinam	269
152	Kyrgyzstan	262
153	Antigua and Barbuda	252
153	Chinese Taipei	252
155	Luxembourg	246
156	Nicaragua	244
157	Chad	237
158	Bermuda	236
159	Namibia	233
160	Gambia	230
161	San Marino	228
162	Sierra Leone	214
163	British Virgin Islands	212
164	Laos	211
165	Papua New Guinea	209
166	Netherlands Antilles	201
167	Dominica	193
168	Bangladesh	190
169	Pakistan	184
170	Eritrea	181
171	Equatorial Guinea	180
172	Dominican Republic	174
173	Seychelles	163
175	Niger	159
176	Mauritania	154
177	Cayman Islands	152
178	Samoa	148
179	Nepal	147
180	Belize	140



WORLD NEWS



MASCHERANO OUT UNTIL NEW YEAR

Argentina midfielder Javier Mascherano is to have surgery on his left foot and will be out of action for the rest of this year.

Corinthians doctor Flavio Fallopa said the examinations had revealed a stress fracture in the 21-year-old's left foot.

Fallopa told reporters: "I've spoken to Mascherano and he has agreed to have the operation. Now, we need to decide where and when this will happen."

Mascherano, a regular for his country since last year, has been out of action with a thigh injury since August 10.

He missed Argentina's friendly away to Hungary and the World Cup qualifier away to Paraguay at the start of this month.

Mascherano is one of a number of high-profile signings made by Corinthians since they signed a controversial partnership deal with London-based Media Sports Investments at the end of last year. He has so far played seven matches for his new club.



Argentine Javier Mascherano is set to be out of action until the new year after having surgery on his left foot.

FLUMINENSE WIN DESPITE FARCE RED CARD

Fluminense, playing their first competitive match against foreign opposition for 20 years, came from behind to beat Banfield 3-1 in the Copa Sudamericana despite a bizarre first-half sending-off.

'Flu' played more than one hour during their second round, first leg tie with 10 men after midfielder Leandro was twice booked, for climbing onto the fence to celebrate the first goal and then for diving in the penalty area.

The Argentine visitors went ahead after 12 minutes on a wet evening in Rio de Janeiro when Jesus Datolo, unmarked at the far post, fired past Kleber.

Leandro replied a minute later when he finished off a move started by Serb midfielder Dejan Petkovic, but then got carried away in the celebrations as he climbed the fence around the pitch to celebrate with Fluminense fans.

In the 27th minute, Leandro fell theatrically in



Fluminense midfielder Leandro celebrates his goal against Argentina's Banfield.

the penalty area and was booked again by Bolivian referee Rene Ortube, who followed the second yellow with a red.

Despite this, striker Tuta added two more second-half goals for Fluminense, whose last international outing was in the more glamorous Libertadores Cup in 1985.

In Sao Paulo, Corinthians,

resting most of their top players, were held to a dire goalless draw by River Plate in front of just over 6,000 fans, their lowest home gate this year.

The other tie went to Argentina as Velez Sarsfield beat Cruzeiro 2-0 in Buenos Aires with two first-half goals from striker Lucas Castroman.

BERGKAMP ON AMSTERDAM FERRY STAND-BY

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger is thinking of asking Dennis Bergkamp to take the ferry to Amsterdam for their Champions League match with Ajax in two weeks.

The Holland striker, who hit a last-minute winner in Arsenal's 2-1 Champions League victory over FC Thun last week, misses most European away games due to his fear of flying.

But he could be needed against Ajax in two weeks after Robin Van Persie's red card in the first half at Highbury left Wenger with only Jose-Antonio Reyes as Arsenal's experienced striker.

"I will make the decision as late as possible. When you make a player travel that far you have to be sure that you will play him," said Wenger.

"Seven hours' travel is sometimes tricky if you want to make changes to your

plans at the last second."

Bergkamp came off the bench to score a last-gasp winner against Swiss side Thun.

"The determination of Dennis was fantastic and a good example for our youngsters," said Wenger.

Thun, in their first Champions League campaign, had a numerical advantage for almost half the match after Van Persie's dismissal.

The Dutchman was shown a straight red after catching Alen Orman in the face with his boot as he jumped to control the ball.

Van Persie now faces a three-match Champions League ban which, coupled with Thierry Henry's absence with a groin injury, would leave Arsenal short on strikers for their next two games away to Ajax and Sparta Prague.



Arsene Wenger is considering asking Dennis Bergkamp to take the ferry to Amsterdam for the club's upcoming Champions League tie against Ajax.



Boca Juniors old boy Diego Maradona has hit out at the club's fans who jeered coach Alfio Basile during a recent win over Argentinos Juniors.

MARADONA BAGS BOCA FANS

An angry Diego Maradona slammed Boca Juniors supporters after they had jeered coach Alfio Basile during a recent 1-0 win over Argentinos Juniors.

"I was very angry when I went home," said former Argentina Maradona, who has taken on a role as Boca's football vice-president.

"I'm sure the people who insulted Basile are not supporters of our team."

However, Maradona conceded that Boca's performance against Argentinos Juniors left much to be desired.

"I know we couldn't find our game," he said. "I know it, the coach knows it, the players know it, we all know it."

Boca, Argentina's most popular club, are joint third in the Apertura championship with 11 points from six games, three behind leaders San Lorenzo and one behind Banfield.

Maradona predicted a close-run championship.

"Apart from San Lorenzo and Banfield, who are playing the best football, everyone is very even."



Juventus forward David Trezeguet has his sights set on breaking Michel Platini club record 104 goals.

CAPELLO HAILS CENTURION TREZEGUET

Juventus coach Fabio Capello led the applause for striker David Trezeguet after the striker struck his 100th goal for the club to secure a 2-1 victory over Bruges in last week's Champions League opener.

Trezeguet's delicate lob over Bruges keeper Stijn Stijnen in the 75th minute shortly after a Pavel Nedved free kick had broken the deadlock, ensured the Italian champions took all three points from a scrappy game.

"I'm delighted he has taken his total to 100. He has always been a great finisher," Capello told La Gazzetta dello Sport.

The 28-year-old has been among Serie A's most reliable scorers since arriving in Turin at the start of the 2000-01 season.

Alongside Swedish international Zlatan Ibrahimovic he forms part of one of the most dangerous attacking partnerships in Europe and has already struck four times in Juve's first three games of

the season.

Trezeguet said his thoughts had already turned to equalling the goal-scoring feats of former Juve great and fellow Frenchman Michel Platini.

"I've finally reached a target I've been thinking about for a long time and I'm proud to become part of the history of this club," he said.

"The next objective is to equal Platini by taking my total to 104."



PORTO DUO SIDELINED

FC Porto captain Pedro Emanuel and striker Tomislav Sokota have both been sidelined due to injuries suffered during their squad's 3-2 Champions League loss to Rangers.

Sokota, who joined the former European champions from Benfica in June, tore a right knee ligament during the Group H match in Glasgow and will undergo surgery in the next 10 days, it said in a statement.

The 28-year-old Croatian hobbled off the pitch after 74 minutes leaving Porto a player short because coach Co Adriaanse had already used his three substitutes by then.

Sokota had replaced Benni McCarthy, who Adriaanse dropped from the squad after the South African was found to have invited two hairdressers into his hotel room over the weekend to get hair extensions in violation of club rules.

Emanuel broke his nose after he clashed heads with Rangers' Croatian striker

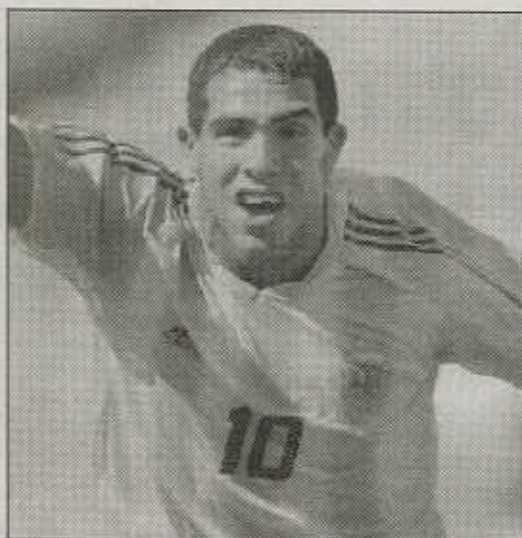


Porto captain Pedro Emanuel (right) has undergone surgery after breaking his nose during last week's Champions League match against Rangers.

Dado Prso in the 36th minute.

He underwent surgery in Portugal after the game and is expected to be off the pitch for several days, the club said.

The Porto captain was replaced in the match against Rangers by Turkish international Fatih Sonkaya while Prso played the remainder of the game with a head bandage.



Corinthians forward Carlos Tevez has been accused of sexism over comments made by the Argentine about two female line officials.

TEVEZ ACCUSES REFS, WOMEN ACCUSE TEVEZ

Corinthians' Argentine forward Carlos Tevez has been accused of sexism in the latest round of mudslinging between himself and Brazilian referees.

A Sao Paulo police department which deals with sexual and racial discrimination is threatening to prosecute the Argentine international over comments he made about two female line officials last week.

"It was an unfortunate comment," said Margarette Correa Barreto Garcia, head of the department known as Gradi which deals with crimes of intolerance.

"He questioned women's capabilities," she said in a radio interview adding that she had received complaints from women's rights groups.

Tevez's outburst came after Corinthians lost 3-2 to local rivals Sao Paulo in a match where women ran both lines.

"When football gets more serious, women shouldn't be taking part (as match officials)," the 21-year-old former Boca Juniors forward told reporters. "It's a question of capabilities."

Tevez is already at the centre of a controversy over the way he has been treated by referees since his move to Brazil for a South American record fee.

On August 6, Tevez insulted referee Anselmo de Costa after being sent off for retaliation during a Brazilian championship match against Sao Caetano.

Tevez said he had been the victim of repeated violent fouls by opponents and that the referee had failed to take action against his opponents.

After last week's match against Corinthians, Tevez was one of several Corinthians players who accused referee Edilson Pereira de Carvalho of swearing at his team-mate Sebastian Dominguez, another Argentine.

Pereira denied the allegations and said the Corinthians players were trying to find excuses for their defeat.

All three men have been summoned to appear before Brazilian soccer's disciplinary tribunal.

LONG LAYOFF FOR LUQUE



Former Deportivo Coruna striker Albert Luque is expected to miss two months of action after rupturing his hamstring.

Newcastle United's Spain striker Albert Luque faces two months out after rupturing his hamstring in the recent 1-1 draw at Fulham.

The 27-year-old, who joined United for 9.5 million pounds from Deportivo Coruna last month, was carried off on a stretcher 10 minutes before halftime.

Manager Graeme Souness expected the forward to be missing for six weeks but the results of a scan last week revealed a rupture that will keep Luque out of action "for eight to 10 weeks", Newcastle's official website said.

Luque, who made his debut against Manchester United at St James' Park in Newcastle's previous league match on August 28, joins a raft of players on the sidelines including Kieron Dyer, Emre, Craig Moore, Michael Chopra and Steven Taylor.

HAMSTRING PAIN FOR KEANE

Manchester United captain Roy Keane is facing an extended spell on the sidelines following the recurrence of a hamstring injury.

Keane could be facing up to six weeks on the sidelines according to recent reports, although United officials expressed optimism that the Ireland international midfielder could be back in action within a month.

Even in the best-case scenario, Keane will miss a home game with Blackburn on September 24 and the following week's Champions League meeting with Benfica.

Keane could also be doubtful for Ireland's crucial World Cup qualifier against Switzerland next month.

With Keane out, Alan Smith can look forward to an extended run in the side in the role of midfield holding player.

Keane's has been the heart and soul of Manchester United since his move from Nottingham Forest.

His fiery play has been a hit with United and his influence has rubbed off a lot on the squad.

It's been said that 'Keane' could become the Red Devils next manager after Sir Alex Ferguson retires from Old Trafford.



French international defender Willy Sagnol is set to sign a deal with Bayern Munich which will see him stay at the Bavarian club until 2010.

SAGNOL SET TO SECURE BAYERN FUTURE

French international defender Willy Sagnol revealed he is set to end speculation about his future by signing a four-year contract extension at Bayern Munich.

"Before the last home

match against Hertha Berlin I spoke with Bayern and I now have a concrete offer until 2010," Sagnol told SportBild last week.

"I have up until the start of October to decide but as it stands I will be staying at Bayern."

The 28-year-old Sagnol is out of contract at the end of the season and looked set to leave for a new challenge after growing frustrated with Bayern's contract terms.

Spanish side Valencia registered their interest in the French star but he is now set to extend his stay at the Allianz Arena.

Sagnol joined Bayern from Monaco in 2000 and has helped the club to three Bundesliga titles and the 2001 Champions League crown.

LANDI LEAVES BUCHAREST

National Bucharest's Roberto Landi became the third coach to quit just five rounds into the new season after his team's crushing home defeat at the weekend.

An official at the first division club said the Italian had resigned after the recent 4-0 defeat by CFR Cluj which left National sixth in the table with nine points from five games.

"Landi told the club that he has quit,"

National's sport manager Vicentiu Iorgulescu told reporters, adding that his replacement would also be foreign.

Italian Walter Zenga coached National Bucharest two years ago before taking over at Steaua Bucharest for a season.

Earlier this month Emil Sandoi quit Pandurii Tirgu Jiu and Basarab Panduru left Vaslui after a string of poor results.

WORLD NEWS

HEINZE FACES INJURY LAY-OFF FOR 7 WEEKS

Manchester United full-back Gabriel Heinze looks set to be out for "several weeks" after injuring a knee in the 0-0 draw with Villarreal.

The Argentinean suffered the injury in a tackle with Jan Kromkamp during the first half.

Although Heinze tried to continue, it was quickly apparent he would have to come off.

Speaking immediately after the game, United boss Sir Alex Ferguson said he did not yet know the full extent of the problem but it seems certain the former Paris Saint Germain player could be sidelined for several weeks.

"He will go for a scan but we think it is medial ligament damage," said Ferguson.

"If that is the case, he is going to be out for several weeks."

Nesta signs for AC Milan for life

AC Milan defender Alessandro Nesta has signed a new deal for life at the San Siro.

Despite being courted by Real Madrid, Nesta this week has put pen to paper on a new contract through to 2010, which will effectively see him play out his career at Milan.

The deal is worth a cool £2.4 million-a-year and negotiations were settled quickly with Nesta having fully embraced the Milan culture since his move from Lazio.

ADVOCAAT TAKES SOUTH KOREA POST

Dutchman Dick Advocaat has taken over as South Korean coach and will lead the side until the end of the 2006 World Cup in Germany, the Korea Football Association (KFA) confirmed.

The 58-year-old was the first choice to replace fellow Dutchman Jo Bonfrere, who resigned four weeks ago.

"We decided to choose him as we believe he is the best card for us," Lee Hoi-Taek, head of the KFA technical

committee, said last week.

"Through his lawyer, we reached an agreement with Advocaat on September 10."

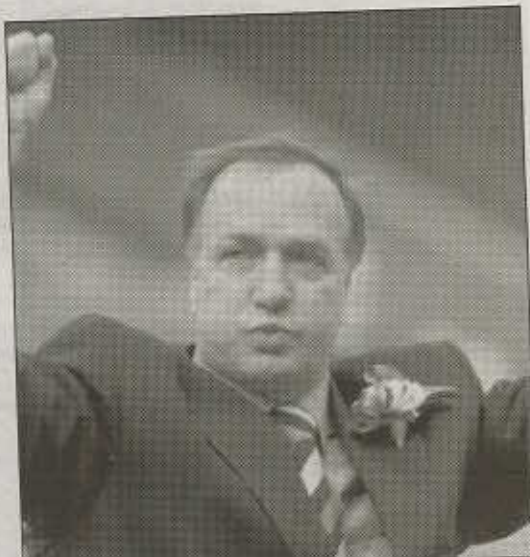
He said Advocaat had signed a short-term contract that would end after the 2006 World Cup but could be renewed by mutual agreement.

Advocaat, who had two stints as coach of the Dutch national side, joined the United Arab Emirates as head coach in July but resigned from that post in order to take up the South Korean position, Lee said.

South Korea has been without a coach since Bonfrere quit on August 23.

Although Bonfrere guided South Korea to a berth in next year's World Cup finals, he was on the receiving end of criticism from fans and in the media clamouring for his removal following a string of poor results.

Advocaat becomes the third Dutchman to lead South Korea's national side, following Bonfrere and Guus Hiddink, who coached South



Former Dutch boss Dick Advocaat has taken over as South Korean coach until the end of next year's World Cup.

Advocaat's international coaching career includes his 1992-94 stint with the Dutch national side, which he led to the quarter-finals of the 1994 World Cup.

A decade later he was back as national team coach and led the side to the semi-finals of Euro 2004.

FA LACK THE GUTS TO SACK SVEN - WHELAN



Wigan chairman Dave Whelan has taken a shot at the English FA, claiming they 'lack the guts' to fire England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson.

Wigan chairman Dave Whelan has accused the Football Association of 'lacking the guts' to sack Sven-Goran Eriksson.

The England coach has been lambasted for his side's recent humiliating defeat in Northern Ireland, which followed an unconvincing 0-1 victory in Wales and the worst loss of his entire time in charge against Denmark last month.

Many critics have called for the Swede's head, even though England remain firm favourites to qualify for next summer's World Cup finals in Germany.

Instead, Soho Square officials have backed their manager, with Eriksson claiming in an interview last weekend he was worthy of his salary.

It is clearly not a view shared by Whelan, who has used the vast wealth generated by his JJB Sports empire to bankroll Wigan's fairytale rise to the Premiership.

The straight-talking Yorkshireman insists Eriksson should be removed

immediately but feels the FA lack the bottle required to carry out the task.

"Sven-Goran Eriksson would have been sacked by now if it was up to me," he told the Manchester Evening News.

"It's obvious the FA don't have the guts to get rid of the England manager even though he has had his chance and should be replaced.

"The whole system and pattern of play under Sven is flawed. We seem to have lost the plot."

Given the choice, Whelan would like to see Eriksson's number two Steve McClaren handed the job, with fledgling Manchester City boss Stuart Pearce as his assistant.

"I know it is easy to criticise and I accept it is a difficult job managing England but the man in charge must be passionate and realise he owes it to the nation to win the World Cup.

"Let's see someone in charge with feeling for the game and let's make sure England are coached by an Englishman."

ORTEGA DENIES PLAN TO RE-JOIN RIVER

Former Argentina forward Ariel Ortega has denied reports that he is leaving Newell's Old Boys to re-join River Plate, the club where he began his career.

"For the time being, I'm staying at Newell's," he told the Diarios y Noticias news agency.

Ortega has missed his team's last two games for personal reasons, fuelling speculation that he is returning to River and that he has fallen out with the team's Chilean coach Juvenal Olmos.

However, Newell's president Eduardo Lopez said: "This proposal has not been considered, because we didn't buy this player to loan him to River."

The 31-year-old, famous for his trickery and infamous for his playacting, ended a 19-month soccer exile when he joined Newell's a year ago after FIFA brokered an agreement in which Turkey's Fenerbahce agreed to release him for three million euros.

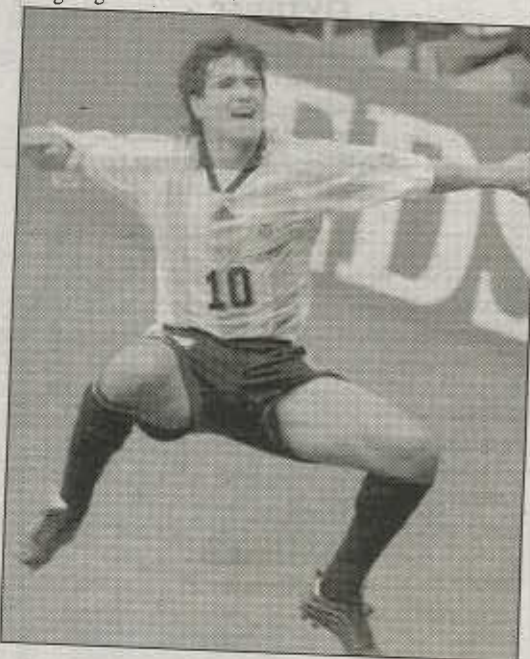
Ortega, who played 86 matches for Argentina and scored 17 goals, had previously been ordered to pay \$11

million to Fenerbahce after walking out on them in February 2003, failing to return after playing for Argentina in a friendly away to the Netherlands.

Newell's won the 2004/5 Apertura championship less than three months after Ortega signed but their form

this year has been less impressive.

They were last month knocked out of the Copa Sudamericana by arch-rivals Rosario Central and are a modest 15th in the Apertura championship with six points from six games.



Ariel Ortega has denied reports he is set to leave Newell's Old Boys in favour of former club River Plate.

VAN DER MEYDE EVERTON DEBUT ON HOLD

Everton manager David Moyes said that he expects newly-signed Dutch winger Andy Van der Meyde to be sidelined for another month with a groin injury.

The 25-year-old has yet to figure since moving from Inter Milan last month.

"Andy is probably about a month away. I know he is hoping to be back in two weeks but he needs a lot of

practice," said Moyes.

Van der Meyde added: "The injury has left me frustrated as it is a dream to be involved in the Premiership. This is a good chance to prove myself."

Lee Carsley (knee), Per Kroldrup (hernia), Alessandro Pistone (knee) and James Vaughan (knee) are all sidelined with long term injuries.



Dutch international Andy Van der Meyde has yet to make his debut for new club Everton because of a groin injury.



EUROPEAN CUP STATS

Champions League & UEFA Cup Round Up



CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

GROUP A

Wednesday September 14

Club Brugge	1	Juventus	2
Rapid Vienna	0	Bayern Munich	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Bayern Munich	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Club Brugge	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Rapid Vienna	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

FIXTURES

Tuesday September 27

Bayern Munich vs Club Brugge
Juventus vs Rapid Vienna

Tuesday October 18

Bayern Munich vs Juventus
Rapid Vienna vs Club Brugge

Wednesday November 2

Juventus vs Bayern Munich
Club Brugge vs Rapid Vienna

Tuesday November 22

Juventus vs Club Brugge
Bayern Munich vs Rapid Vienna

Wednesday December 7

Club Brugge vs Bayern Munich
Rapid Vienna vs Juventus

GROUP B

Wednesday September 14

Arsenal	2	Thun	1
Sparta Prague	1	Ajax	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Ajax	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Sparta	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Thun	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

FIXTURES

Tuesday September 27

Ajax vs Arsenal
Thun vs Sparta Prague

Tuesday October 18

Ajax vs Thun
Sparta Prague vs Arsenal

GROUP C

Wednesday September 14

Werder Bremen	0	Barcelona	2
Udinese	3	Panathinaikos	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Udinese	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Barcelona	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Bremen	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Panathinaikos	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

FIXTURES

Tuesday September 27

Barcelona vs Udinese
Panathinaikos vs Werder Bremen

Tuesday October 18

Panathinaikos vs Barcelona
Udinese vs Werder Bremen

GROUP D

Wednesday September 14

Benfica	1	Lille	0
Villarreal	0	Man Utd	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Man. United	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Villarreal	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Lille	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

FIXTURES

Tuesday September 27

Lille vs Villarreal
Man Utd vs Benfica

Tuesday October 18

Villarreal vs Benfica
Man Utd vs Lille



UEFA CUP – FIRST ROUND

APOEL	0	Hertha Berlin	1	M. Petach-Tikva	0	Partizan Belgrade	2
Auxerre	2	Levski	1	Middlesbrough	2	Xanthi	0
B.Leverkusen	0	CSKA Sofia	1	Monaco	2	Willem II	0
Basel	5	Siroki Brijeg	0	Ostrava	2	Heerenveen	0
Besiktas	0	Malmö	1	Palermo	2	Anorthosis	1
Bolton	2	Loko Plovdiv	1	PAOK	1	Metalurh	1
Brann	1	L. Moscow	2	Rennes	3	Osasuna	1
Brøndby	2	Zurich	0	Roma	5	Aris Saloniki	1
Red Star	0	Braga	0	Second Leg - September 29			
CSKA Moscow	3	Midtjylland	1				
D.Bucuresti	5	Everton	1				
Feyenoord	1	Rapid Bucharest	1				
G.Beerschot	0	Marseille	0				
GAK	0	Strasbourg	2				
Grasshoppers	1	MyPa	1				
Guimares	3	Wisla Krakow	0				
Halmstad	1	Sporting Lisbon	2				
Hamburg	1	Copenhagen	1				
Hibernian	0	Dnipro	0				
Krylya Sovetov	5	AZ Alkmaar	3				
Lens	1	Groclin	1				
Litex	2	Genk	2				



GROUP E

Tuesday September 13

AC Milan	3	Fenerbahce	1
PSV Eindhoven	1	Schalke	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
PSV	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Schalke	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Fenerbahce	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

FIXTURES

Wednesday September 28

Fenerbahce vs PSV Eindhoven
Schalke vs AC Milan

Wednesday October 19

Fenerbahce vs Schalke
AC Milan vs PSV Eindhoven

GROUP F

Tuesday September 13

Lyon	3	Real Madrid	0
Olympiakos	1	Rosenborg	3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lyon	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Rosenborg	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Olympiakos	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Real Madrid	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

FIXTURES

Wednesday September 28

Real Madrid vs Olympiakos
Rosenborg vs Lyon

Wednesday October 19

Lyon vs Olympiakos
Real Madrid vs Rosenborg

Tuesday November 1

Olympiakos vs Lyon
Rosenborg vs Real Madrid

Wednesday November 23

Real Madrid vs Lyon
Rosenborg vs Olympiakos

Tuesday December 6

Olympiakos vs Real Madrid
Lyon vs Rosenborg

GROUP G

Tuesday September 13

Real Betis	1	Liverpool	2
Chelsea	1	Anderlecht	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Chelsea	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Betis	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Anderlecht	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

FIXTURES

Wednesday September 28

Liverpool vs Chelsea
Anderlecht vs Real Betis

Wednesday October 19

Anderlecht vs Liverpool
Chelsea vs Real Betis

GROUP H

Tuesday September 13

Artmedia	0	Inter Milan	1
Rangers	3	Porto	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Internazionale	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Porto	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Artmedia	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

FIXTURES

Wednesday September 28

Inter Milan vs Rangers
Porto vs Artmedia

Wednesday October 19

Porto vs Inter Milan
Rangers vs Artmedia

Tuesday November 1

Inter Milan vs Porto
Artmedia vs Rangers

ITALIAN SERIE A

Italian Affair

By Joe Russo

The club versus country debate has taken on a new dimension in Italy. For years we in Australia have had to deal with several of our Soccerroos preferring to miss international matches because they feared retribution from their wealthy European clubs.

Juventus coach Fabio Capello has now entered the debate as well. According to reports, he supports a proposal that would see clubs compensated should a player get injured on international duty.

Belgium side Charleroi want compensation because their midfielder, Abdelmajid Oulmers, missed most of last season with an injury he suffered whilst playing for Morocco last year.

Now, not wanting to sound disrespectful, but one has to ask: who are Charleroi? And, better still, who is Oulmers? They are hardly household names in the world of football. The last little known Belgian to rock the boat was Johnny Bosman in 1995. The famous Bosman case, while liberating for players and their grubby agents, has practically destroyed every national club competition in Europe.

Today we are left with the Serie A, the EPL and La Liga amongst other competitions, trying to undo the work of the Bosman case. The flow on effect for the national teams has been nothing short of disastrous.

The best teams in Europe have so many foreigners now that the local players hardly get a look in at all. It is little wonder that Italy now struggle to beat Scotland and England are totally outplayed by Wales.

It is rather sad to see Capello supporting the claim Charleroi. Yes clubs are the ones that pay a player's wages and if a player gets injured they lose economically. However, that's simply the price of securing the best players on the market. To play for a national team is the highest possible honour in world football.

The G14, the group representing Europe's most powerful clubs including Juventus, has also stood by Charleroi's decision to take legal action against FIFA. It is a sad day indeed for football and, if the case is successful, it would be another strong nail in the coffin of international football.

★★★★

Not getting much attention back home in Australia are two young Australian players, Dez Giraldi and Carl Valeri in Italy's Serie C. Giraldi is on loan from Empoli at Cuio Pelli Cappiano based in Pisa and Valeri plays for Grosseto.

Cuio Pelli's first game of the season against Foligno recently ended in an away draw in front of a small but full local stadium.

The local media scored Giraldi's performance fairly high and, considering he was the youngest player on the pitch, it was a fine achievement.

Valeri meanwhile was voted the player of the match in his opening game for Grosseto. It is great to see the former Inter youth squad player doing so well.

"I know the limitations of a young footballer, but I have made it clear to the club and the coaching staff that I'm not here just for the experience," Giraldi said exclusively from Tuscany in Italy. "I'm here to achieve big things and I'll make sure I do. I was grateful that the boss had enough faith in me to throw me straight into the first team lineup." Italian Affair will keep ABSW readers updated on the progress of these two young Australians who are doing so well in Italy's lower divisions.

★★★★

Is there an entrepreneur out there who is interested in buying Lecce? The club is up for sale after owner Rico Semeraro decided to sell ending his 11-year relationship with the Serie A club.

Semeraro, who has received constant criticism from the club's fans ever since he sacked popular coach Zdenek Zeman at the end of last season, has had enough.

In one of the dopest decisions ever by a club president, Semeraro sacked Zeman who had brought so much joy not only to Lecce fans, but the entire Serie A with his entertaining style of play. The quicker a buyer is found, the better it will be for all involved.

★★★★

Sydney readers can tune into Sunday Night Soccer, on 98.5 FM every Sunday at 10.00pm, for all the latest local and international football news.

JUVENTUS 2 PARMA 1

Alessandro Del Piero gave a timely demonstration of his talents with two goals to enable defending champions Juventus to move two points clear at the top of Serie A.

Del Piero is not the automatic choice he once was for club and country but, given the chance to start on Sunday against Ascoli, he delivered.

His first goal in the 2-1 win at the Delle Alpi came from the penalty spot and he quickly followed that up with a second after Alfredo Cariello had equalised.

Juve are now the only team in Italy's top flight with a 100% record after three games.

SAMPDORIA 2 AC MILAN 1

AC Milan are expected to challenge for the title but their patchy start continued with a 2-1 defeat at Sampdoria.

Alberto Gilardino put Milan ahead but Carlo Ancelotti's men were undone by efforts from Emiliano Bonazzoli and Max Tonetto.

The defeat will not help the cause of Ancelotti who was criticised by club owner Silvio Berlusconi before the season and whose position was not helped by a 1-1 draw with lowly Ascoli on the first day of the season.

Samp can be pleased with another big scalp and continue to show how they have progressed under Novellino.

LIVORNO 0 AS ROMA 0

Livorno lost their 100% record on Sunday night after Roma left Leghorn with a valuable goalless draw.

It was the least the Giallorossi deserved after a fine performance which would have reaped a better reward had it not been for a number of good stops from home keeper Marco Amelia.

Amelia may have realised it would be his day in the first minute when he was beaten by a dipping Daniele De Rossi volley which crashed back off the bar.

FIorentina 4 UDINESE 2

Two goals from Luca Toni fired Fiorentina to a comprehensive 4-2 victory against Udinese on Sunday.

The Italian international struck either side of half time to give his team three points in a game that saw plenty of action and no shortage of controversy.

Goals from Stefano Fiore and Toni in a four-minute spell gave Fiorentina a 2-1 advantage at the break after Sulley Muntari had scored a 27th-minute opener for Udinese.

But Udinese will feel hard done by following the referee's decision to disallow Vincenzo Iaquinta's second-half goal for a dubious foul on a Fiorentina defender, as just one minute later Marco Donadell's free-kick extended the hosts' lead before Toni added his second of the afternoon to seal the win.

LAZIO 3 TREVISO 1

Lazio maintained their unbeaten start to the league season with a comfortable 3-1 victory over 10-man Treviso at the Stadio Olimpico.

Goals from Tommaso Rocchi, Goran Pandev and a Massimo Oddo penalty were enough for the Roman club with Andre Da Silva Pinga providing the only moment of cheer for Treviso whose goalkeeper Samir Handanovic earned a late red card for the incident that led to the spot kick.

SIENA 1 PALERMO 2

Palermo were 2-1 winners at Siena thanks to a Christian Terlizzi strike, who put the Sicilians ahead in the first half only for Tomas Locatelli to equalise promptly for Siena.

Stephen Makinwa netted the winner for Palermo



Inter's Adriano slides in during a slippery 3-0 victory over Lecce

in the second half.

Palermo's last away win came back in February 2 when Fiorentina were their victims at the Stadio Artemio Franchi.

CAGLIARI 1 MESSINA 1

David Suazo scored his second goal in as many games to ensure his Cagliari side earned a 1-1 draw against Messina.

Massimo Donati had given the visitors lead with a sweetly-struck volley that was worthy of opening the scoring in any game.

But Suazo showed his class and eye for goal when he dribbled past two Messina defenders before calmly slotting home the equaliser in the battle of the islands with Sardinia's Cagliari clashing with Sicily's Messina.

REGGINA 1 CHIEVO VERONA 3

Chievo built on last weekend's win against Parma with their first-ever victory at Reggina on Sunday afternoon.

The visitors from Verona had managed just two draws from their previous seven visits to the Oreste Granillo stadium in Reggio Calabria but Giuseppe Pillon's side were impressive in ending that dismal record with a 3-1 win.

They did it the hard way, though, coming from behind after Francesco Cozza put Reggina ahead after 10 minutes.

Daniele Franceschini equalised eight minutes later and then put Chievo ahead 18 minutes into the second half.

Davide Mandelli made it 3-1 with 13 minutes to go with the only blot on the visitors' afternoon coming with the late dismissal of defender

Lorenzo D'Anna.

INTER MILAN 3 LECCE 0

Internazionale had a convincing 3-0 victory over struggling Lecce at the San Siro on Saturday.

The game was virtually over as a contest by the half-hour mark following a sliding finish by Nigeria striker Obafemi Martins and a close-range effort by midfielder Dejan Stankovic.

Julio Cruz continued his prolific scoring spree with his fourth goal in three matches with just six minutes to go, the Argentinian striker lashing home from eight yards out following a centre by ebullient playmaker Juan Sebastian Veron.

PARMA 1 EMPOLI 0

Parma beat Empoli to register their first win of the season in convincing fashion despite only scoring one of their multiple chances.

Bernardo Corradi's 17th-minute goal was all that separated the sides on paper but, after surviving an early flourish from the visitors, Parma dominated the match and could have won by many more but for the heroic efforts of visiting goalkeeper Gianluca Berti.



SERIE A

Parma 1 Empoli 0, Inter Milan 3 Lecce 0, Cagliari 1 Messina 1, Fiorentina 4 Udinese 2, Juventus 2 Ascoli 1, Lazio 3 Treviso 1, Reggina 1 Chievo Verona 3, Sampdoria 2 AC Milan 1, Siena 1 Palermo 2, Livorno 0 Roma 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Juventus	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
2. Fiorentina	3	2	1	0	8	5	7
3. Lazio	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
4. Palermo	3	2	1	0	6	4	7
5. Livorno	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
6. Inter Milan	3	2	0	1	8	3	6
7. Chievo	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
8. Sampdoria	3	2	0	1	6	5	6
9. Udinese	3	2	0	1	4	4	6
10. Roma	3	1	1	1	3	1	4
11. Milan	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
12. Parma	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
13. Siena	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
14. Cagliari	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
15. Messina	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
16. Ascoli	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
17. Lecce	3	0	1	2	1	5	1
18. Reggina	3	0	0	3	3	9	0
19. Treviso	3	0	0	3	1	7	0
20. Empoli	3	0	0	3	0	6	0

FIXTURES

Wednesday 21st September

AC Milan	v	Lazio
Ascoli	v	Siena
Chievo	v	Inter Milan
Empoli	v	Cagliari
Lecce	v	Fiorentina
Messina	v	Livorno
Palermo	v	Reggina
AS Roma	v	Parma
Treviso	v	Sampdoria
Udinese	v	Juventus

Saturday 24th September

Reggina	v	Udinese
Parma	v	Juventus

Saturday 25th September

Cagliari	v	AS Roma
Empoli	v	Lecce
Lazio	v	Palermo
Livorno	v	Ascoli
Sampdoria	v	Chievo
Siena	v	Messina
Treviso	v	AC Milan
Inter Milan	v	Fiorentina



ENGLISH



CHARLTON 0 CHELSEA 2

Chelsea hit the woodwork twice before finding the back of the net twice to make it six wins from six games and stay firmly in control of the Premier League.

Argentine striker Hernan Crespo hit the post after Ghana midfielder Michael Essien launched a 20th minute counter-attack and France defender William Gallas was denied by the woodwork just after the restart when he latched on to a Frank Lampard free kick.

But the breakthrough arrived in the 55th minute when Essien laid the ball on for a Crespo header and Dutch winger Arjen Robben soon added their second with a superb curling shot.

FULHAM 1 WEST HAM UTD 2

Striker Marlon Harewood was West Ham's match-winner for the second time in a week after his hat-trick in Monday's 4-0 rout of Aston Villa.

Having had a first-half strike ruled offside, he fired home after lifting the ball over Fulham defender Zat Knight and then saw another shot fly in off keeper Tony Warner via the post and go down as an own goal. Luis Boa Morte pulled one back for Fulham in the 66th minute but the damage was already done.

PORTSMOUTH 1 BIRMINGHAM CITY 1

Ten-man Birmingham ground out a point at Fratton Park after early goals were followed by Nicky Butt being red-carded just before the break for kicking out at Pompey striker Dario Silva.

Sloppy defending by City allowed striker Lomana Lua Lua to steer the hosts into a fourth-minute lead from a Laurent Robert corner.

But Pompey were no better at the back two minutes later, when Czech midfielder Jiri Jarosik, on loan from Chelsea, equalised following a Jermaine Pennant free kick.

SUNDERLAND 1 WEST BROMICH 1

After five successive defeats on their return to the top flight, Sunderland's hopes of victory were cruelly dashed by Zoltan Gera's equaliser at the very end.

Defender Gary Breen headed them into a seventh minute lead straight from a corner and Mick McCarthy's side looked set for a deserved win before West Brom's Hungarian midfielder nodded home from a corner in the fourth minute of stoppage time.

ASTON VILLA 1 TOTTENHAM 1

Spurs looked likely to pay the price for a stray pass and a missed penalty at Villa Park before Ireland striker Robbie Keane came on to score a 78th minute equaliser.



Birmingham City gaffer Steve Bruce was seething with the match officials after their 1-1 draw to Portsmouth



Chelsea's Claude Makelele thwarts Dennis Rommedahl's run

A ragged pass by midfielder Jermaine Jenas was pounced on by Czech striker Milan Baros and his breakaway ended with a rasping shot by James Milner past keeper Paul Robinson in the fourth minute.

Jermain Defoe then missed a spot-kick and both sides hit the bar after the break – through Liam Ridgewell and Defoe – before Keane's superb dribble and shot through a packed area.

BLACKBURN 0 NEWCASTLE 3

Michael Owen got off the mark for his new club and left boss Graeme Souness celebrating Newcastle's 3-0 victory at his former club Blackburn.

Owen headed home Newcastle's second goal in the 68th minute, five minutes after Alan Shearer had broken the deadlock with a classic free-kick.

Despite Steven Taylor's 75th-minute sending-off for a second bookable offence the visitors sealed their win with three minutes left when Charles N'Zogbia burst clear and rounded Brad Friedel.

LIVERPOOL 0 MANCHESTER UTD 0

Liverpool and Manchester United failed to find a goal between them at Anfield as Chelsea's grip on the Premiership title tightened without them even playing.

In a match of predictable industry but few genuine chances, only Steven Gerrard looked like providing a winner.

The returning Anfield skipper went close with a header, forced a good save from Edwin van der Sar and provided the assist for two wasted Luis Garcia efforts, yet still had to settle for a point.

Just minutes after the final whistle it was reported that Roy Keane suffered a broken bone in his foot during the stalemate and will be out for two months.

MANCHESTER CITY 0 BOLTON 1

Gary Speed scored a dramatic stoppage-time winner for to earn Bolton a 1-0 victory at Manchester City.

The former Wales captain converted a penalty after Richard Dunne had handled Henrik Pedersen's chip into the area.

It was an astonishing result given that City had dominated the game but failed to make the breakthrough.

WIGAN 1 MIDDLESBROUGH 1

Henri Camara came off the bench to earn Wigan a 1-1 draw against Middlesbrough at the JJB Stadium.

Aiyegbeni Yakubu had given the visitors a 14th-minute lead but their tendency to under perform after UEFA Cup games continued.



Bobby Zamora clashes with Fulham's Luis Boa Morte (right)

FIXTURES

Saturday 24th September	
Birmingham	v Liverpool
Chelsea	v Aston Villa
Everton	v Wigan
Man Utd	v Blackburn
Newcastle	v Man City
West Brom	v Charlton
West Ham	v Arsenal
Bolton	v Portsmouth
Sunday 25th September	
Middlesbrough	v Sunderland
Sunday 25th September	
Tottenham	v Fulham

PREMIER LEAGUE

Charlton 0 Chelsea 2, Fulham 1 West Ham 2, Portsmouth 1 Birmingham City 1, Sunderland 1 West Bromwich 1, Aston Villa 1 Tottenham 1, Liverpool 0 Manchester Utd 0, Blackburn 0 Newcastle Utd 3, Wigan 1 Middlesbrough 1 Man City 0 Bolton 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	6	6	0	0	12	0	18
Charlton	5	4	0	1	8	3	12
Man Utd	5	3	2	0	6	1	11
Bolton	6	3	2	1	7	4	11
Man City	6	3	2	1	7	5	11
West Ham	5	3	1	1	10	4	10
Tottenham	6	2	3	1	5	3	9
Middlesbrough	6	2	2	2	6	7	8
Wigan	5	2	1	2	4	4	7
Arsenal	4	2	0	2	7	4	6
Liverpool	4	1	3	0	1	0	6
Aston Villa	6	1	3	2	5	9	6
Portsmouth	6	1	2	3	5	8	5
Newcastle	6	1	2	3	4	7	5
Birmingham	6	1	2	3	5	9	5
Fulham	6	1	2	3	5	9	5
West Brom	6	1	2	3	6	11	5
Blackburn	6	1	2	3	3	8	5
Everton	4	1	0	3	1	4	3
Sunderland	6	0	1	5	3	10	1

Football League Championship

Preston NE 0 Stoke 1, Hull 0 Luton 1, Brighton 2 Coventry 2, Cardiff 1 Crystal Palace 0, Plymouth 1 Burnley 0, QPR 0 Leeds Utd 1, Reading 1 Crewe 0, Sheffield Wed 1 Millwall 2, Watford 2 Sheffield Utd 3, Wolverhampton 0 Leicester 0, Ipswich 0 Norwich 1, Derby 2 Southampton 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sheff Utd	9	8	0	1	20	9	24
Reading	9	6	2	1	18	6	20
Watford	9	5	2	2	19	12	17
Luton	9	5	2	2	12	8	17
Stoke	9	5	1	3	10	11	16
Southampton	9	3	5	1	12	9	14
Leeds	8	4	2	2	10	7	14
Wolverhampton	9	3	4	2	10	9	13
Derby	9	2	6	1	13	11	12
Preston	9	3	3	3	10	9	12
QPR	9	3	3	3	7	10	12
Cardiff	8	3	2	3	11	12	11
Ipswich	9	3	2	4	8	13	11
Crystal Palace	8	3	1	4	10	9	10
Leicester	9	2	4	3	10	12	10
Coventry	9	1	6	2	10	12	9
Norwich	9	2	3	4	8	10	9
Hull	9	2	3	4	5	7	9
Brighton	9	1	5	3	10	13	8
Crewe	9	1	5	3	10	14	8
Plymouth	9	2	2	5	7	13	8
Millwall	9	2	1	6	8	16	7
Burnley	9	1	3	5	13	15	6
Sheff Wed	8	1	3	4	4	8	6

Football League One

Bournemouth 2 Swindon 1, Bradford 1 Yeovil 1, Bristol City 1 Blackpool 1, Doncaster 3 Scunthorpe 1, Gillingham 0 Oldham 1, Hartlepool 2 Swansea 2, Huddersfield 3 Brentford 2, Milton Keynes 0 Barnsley 0, Notts Forest 2 Rotherham 0, Port Vale 0 Colchester 1, Southend 3 Tranmere 1, Walsall 2 Chesterfield 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swansea	9	6	1	2	25	13	19
Huddersfield	9	6	1	2	17	12	19
Southend	9	5	2	2	16	10	17
Brentford	9	5	2	2	14	8	17
Scunthorpe	9	5	2	2	15	11	17
Barnsley	9	4	2	3	11	7	14
Rotherham	9	4	2	3	11	7	14
Port Vale	9	4	2	3	9	8	14
Bournemouth	9	3	4	2	9	9	13
Oldham	9	4	1	4	11	13	13
Tranmere	9	3	3	3	12	10	12
Bradford	9	3	3	3	11	9	12
Colchester	9	3	3	3	9	10	12
Chesterfield	9	4	0	5	14	16	12
Walsall	9	3	3	3	14	16	12
Hartlepool	9	2	4	3	11	13	10
Blackpool	9	2	4	3	8	13	10
Nottm Forest	8	3	0	5	11	12	9
Yeovil	9	2	3	4	8	13	9
Gillingham	9	2	3	4	6	13	9
Doncaster	9	2	2	5	9	12	8
Swindon	9	2	1	6	10	14	7
Bristol City	8	1	4	3	8	15	7
Milton Keynes Dons	9	0	6	3	7	12	6

*For Tables and results for Football League Two and Nationwide Conference turn to page 31



EUROPE

TABLES AND RESULTS



What's on the Box September

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Tue 20 September
 Arsenal v Everton 4.55 am
 Sat 24 September
 Birmingham v Liverpool 9.40 pm
 Newcastle v Man City 11.55 pm
 Sun 25 September
 Bolton v Portsmouth 2.10 am
 Mon 26 September
 Mid/brough v Sunderland 12.55 am
 Tue 27 September
 Tottenham v Fulham 4.55 am

A-LEAGUE

Thur Sep 22
 NZ Knights v Perth 6.00 pm
 Fri Sep 23
 Queensland v Sydney 8.00 pm
 Sun Sep 25
 Melbourne v Newcastle 5.00 pm
 Fri Sep 30
 CC Mariners v Melbourne 8.00 pm

*To be shown on Fox
 channels 11 & 12

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Sun Sep 25
 Real Betis v Liverpool 2.00 pm
 Wed Sep 28
 Man Utd v Benfica 6.30 am
 Thur Sep 29
 Liverpool v Chelsea 6.30 am
 *All these matches shown on SBS

U17S WORLD CUP PERU

Tue Sep 20
 Mexico v Australia 6.15 am
 Fri Sep 23
 Australia v Uruguay 6.15 am
 Fri Sep 30
 Semi Final #1 6.45 am
 followed by the second Semi-Final
 Sun Oct 2
 Final 8.30 am
 *All these matches shown on SBS
 *All match times AEST



Sydney's David Carney is marked closely by Mariners midfielder Dean Heffernan (left)

BELGIAN JUPILER LEAGUE

Brussels 1 Anderlecht 1, Cercle Bruges 0
 Standard Liege 3, Lierse 0 Charleroi 0, St
 Truiden 1 Lokeren 2, Beveren 0 Club
 Bruges 1, Germinal Beerschot 1 La
 Louviere 1, Genk 3 Zulte Waregem 1,
 Roeselare 0 Westerlo 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Standard	6	5	0	1	14	-7	15
2. Anderlecht	6	4	2	0	18	-6	14
3. Club Brugge	6	4	2	0	8	-3	14
4. Westerlo	6	4	1	1	9	-2	13
5. Charleroi	6	2	4	0	6	-3	10
6. Waregem	6	3	1	2	11	-9	10
7. AA Gent	6	3	1	2	8	-7	10
8. Lokeren	5	3	1	1	6	-6	10
9. Roeselare	6	2	1	3	6	-5	7
10. Genk	6	1	4	1	8	-8	7
11. Beveren	6	2	0	4	7	-6	6
12. Brussels	6	1	3	2	6	-8	6
13. St-Truiden	6	2	0	4	4	-7	6
14. Lierse SK	5	1	2	2	4	-8	5
15. G.B.A.	6	1	1	4	5	-10	4
16. Louviere	6	0	4	2	4	-11	4
17. Excelsior	6	1	0	5	3	-10	3
18. Cercle	6	0	1	5	2	-12	1

CROATIAN FIRST DIVISION

Osijek 2 Varteks 0, Slaven Belupo 3 Inter
 Z 0, Hajduk Split 0 Rijeka 1, Kamen 2
 Cibalia 0, Medimurje 2 Pula 0, Zagreb 0
 Dinamo Zagreb 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Dinamo	8	6	1	1	22	-2	19
2. Rijeka	8	5	2	1	17	-11	17
3. Varteks	8	5	0	3	13	-10	15
4. Kamen	8	4	2	2	12	-8	14
5. Osijek	8	4	0	4	5	-10	12
6. Hajduk	8	3	2	3	12	-7	11
7. Medimurje	8	3	2	3	10	-8	11
8. Zagreb	8	3	2	3	9	-11	11
9. Cibalia	8	2	2	4	5	-16	8
10. Inter	8	2	1	5	5	-14	7
11. Slaven	8	1	2	5	8	-14	5
12. Pula SC	8	1	2	5	6	-13	5

DUTCH EREDIVISIE

ADO Den Haag 0 Twente 0, Heracles 0
 RKC Waalwijk 2, NEC Nijmegen 1 NAC
 Breda 1, RBC Roosendaal 1 Sparta
 Rotterdam 1, AZ Alkmaar 4 Ajax 2, Roda
 JC 0 Willem II 2, Feyenoord 5 Heerenveen
 1, Groningen 1 PSV Eindhoven 0, Utrecht
 1 Vitesse 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. AZ	5	5	0	0	21	-3	15
2. Feyenoord	5	5	0	0	15	-3	15
3. RKC	5	5	0	0	11	-3	15
4. PSV	5	3	1	1	7	-3	10
5. Heracles	5	3	1	1	7	-6	10
6. NAC	5	2	1	2	6	-5	7
7. Sparta	5	2	1	2	4	-7	7
8. Ajax	4	2	0	2	7	-6	6
9. Groningen	5	2	0	3	4	-5	6
10. NEC	5	1	2	2	3	-7	5
11. Willem II	5	1	1	3	4	-6	4
12. FC Twente	5	1	1	3	3	-5	4
13. Den Haag	4	1	1	2	3	-6	4
14. FC Utrecht	5	1	1	3	3	-6	4
15. Heerenveen	5	1	1	3	9	-14	4
16. Vitesse	5	1	1	3	4	-10	4
17. Roda JC	5	1	0	4	6	-12	3
18. RBC	5	0	2	3	2	-12	2

FRENCH LIGUE 1

Bordeaux 1 Lyon 1, Nancy 1 Metz 1,
 Nantes 2 Toulouse 0, Le Mans 2 Sochaux
 1, Lille 4 Nice 0, Auxerre 2 Ajaccio 0,
 Monaco 0 Rennes 2, Marseille 2 Troyes 1,
 Strasbourg 1 Lens 1, St Etienne 3 PSG 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Lyon	7	5	2	0	10	-4	17
2. Le Mans	7	4	2	1	10	-3	14
3. St Etienne	7	3	4	0	7	-1	13
4. Paris SG	7	4	1	2	10	-7	13
5. Lens	7	3	3	1	13	-5	12
6. Lille	7	3	3	1	11	-5	12

7. Bordeaux	7	3	3	1	6	-3	12
8. Nantes	7	3	2	2	8	-4	11
9. Ajaccio	7	2	4	1	7	-6	10
10. Auxerre	7	3	1	3	6	-12	10
11. Troyes	7	2	3	2	6	-6	9
12. Rennes	7	3	0	4	8	-17	9
13. Marseille	7	2	2	3	7	-10	8
14. Nice	7	2	2	3	7	-10	8
15. Monaco	7	2	1	4	4	-8	7
16. Sochaux	7	1	2	4	3	-6	5
17. Toulouse	7	1	2	4	2	-9	5
18. Nancy	7	1	1	5	8	-7	4
19. Strasbourg	7	0	4	3	2	-5	4
20. Metz	7	0	4	3	2	-9	4

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Cologne 2 Moenchengladbach 1, Arminia
 Bielefeld 0 Kaiserslautern 0, Bayern
 Munich 1 Hanover 0, Mainz 1 Stuttgart 2,
 Hamburg 1 Eintracht Frankfurt 1,
 Wolfsburg 1 Nuremberg 1, Werder
 Bremen 3 Dortmund 2., Duisburg 1
 B.Leverkusen 3, Schalke 0 Hertha Berlin
 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Bayern	5	5	0	0	14	-3	15
2. Werder	5	4	1	0	16	-6	13
3. Hamburger	5	3	2	0	10	-3	11
4. Schalke 04	5	2	3	0	6	-4	9
5. FC Koln	5	3	0	2	9	-8	9
6. Hertha BSC	5	2	2	1	7	-5	8
7. Leverkusen	5	2	1	2	11	-10	7
8. Kaisers	5	2	1	2	10	-12	7
9. Hannover	5	1	3	1	6	-5	6
10. Stuttgart	5	1	3	1	7	-7	6
11. Wolfsburg	5	1	3	1	6	-8	6
12. Dortmund	5	1	2	2	8	-9	5
13. Arminia	5	1	2	2	5	-8	5
14. Moncbach	5	1	2	2	5	-8	5
15. Frankfurt	5	1	1	3	3	-9	4
16. Duisburg	5	0	2	3	7	-12	2
17. Nurnberg	5	0	2	3	3	-8	2
18. Mainz 05	5	0	0	5	2	-10	0

GREEK ETHNIKI KATIGORIA

Xanthi 2 Kalamaria 0, Panionios 3 Ionikos
 3, Levadiakos 0 Panathinaikos 0, Kallithea
 0 Olympiakos 3, Atromitos 4 OFI Crete 0,
 Akrotitos 0 Larisa 0, AEK Athens 1 Egaleo
 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Olympiakos	3	3	0	0	10	-0	9
2. Xanthi	3	2	1	0	4	-1	7
3. Atromitos	3	1	2	0	6	-2	5
4. AEK Athens	3	1	2	0	3	-1	5
5. Larisa	3	1	2	0	3	-1	5
6. Aigaleo	3	1	2	0	3	-2	5
7. Akrotitos	3	1	1	1	3	-2	4
8. Kalamaria	3	1	1	1	3	-4	4
9. Ionikos	3	0	3	0	5	-5	3
10. Levadiakos	3	0	3	0	2	-2	3
11. PAO	3	0	2	1	1	-3	2
12. Panionios	3	0	2	1	4	-9	2
13. PAOK	2	0	1	1	2	-3	1
14. OFI	3	0	1	2	2	-7	1
15. Kallithea	3	0	1	2	1	-6	1
16. Iraklis	2	0	0	2	1	-5	0

ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE 2

Bury 1 Boston Utd 1, Cheltenham 2
 Carlisle 3, Chester 4 Bristol Rovers 0,
 Darlington 1 Oxford Utd 2, Grimsby 3
 Torquay 0, Leyton Orient 1 Wrexham 1,
 Lincoln City 1 Peterborough 2,
 Macclesfield 1 Northampton 4, Rochdale
 2 Mansfield 0, Rushden & Diamonds 3
 Stockport 2, Shrewsbury 2 Notts County
 0, Wycombe 1 Barnet 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grimsby	9	6	1	2	13	7	19
Carlisle	9	5	2	2	10	7	17
Rochdale	9	5	1	3	19	11	16
Chester	9	4	4	1	18	11	16
Notts County	9	4	4	1	11	8	16
Wycombe	9	3	6	0	15	9	15
Northampton	9	3	5	1	13	9	14
Peterborough	9	4	2	3	10	7	14
Leyton Orient	9	4	2	3	13	14	14
Darlington	9	3	4	2	14	12	13

Wrexham	9	3	3	3	10	8	12
Shrewsbury	9	3	3	3	9	8	12
Cheltenham	9	2	5	2	12	11	11
Lincoln City	9	2	5	2	10	9	11
Barnet	9	3	2	4	11	12	11
Oxford Utd	9	2	5	2	11	12	11
Rushden	9	2	4	3	10	14	10
Stockport	9	1	6	2	15	16	9
Bristol Rovers	9	2	3	4	11	17	9
Boston Utd	9	1	5	3	13	18	8
Macclesfield	9	2	2	5	11	17	8
Mansfield	9	1	3	5	12	17	6
Bury	9	1	3	5	8	14	6
Torquay	9	1	2	6	5	16	5

ENGLISH NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE

Accrington Stanley 4 Crawley Town 2,
 Aldershot 2 Stevenage 2, Cambridge Utd
 0 Woking 2, Canvey Island 1 Scarborough
 0, Dag & red 3 Burton Albion 1,
 Gravesend 4 Halifax 0, Hereford 1
 Morecambe 0, Kidderminster 1 Forest
 Green 3, Southport 0 Exeter 3, Tamworth
 2 Grays Athletic 2, York 5 Altrincham 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Exeter	8	6	2	0	16	3	20
York	8	5	2	1	15	5	17
Grays Athletic	8	4	4	0	18	9	16
Accrington	8	5	1	2	14	10	16
Dag & Red	8	4	3	1	17	9	15
Stevenage	8	4	2	2	15	10	14
Hereford	8	4	2	2	9	4	14
Morecambe	8	4	1	3	10	7	13
Gravesend	8	4	1	3	13	14	13
Kidderminster	8	3	3	2	12	11	12
Halifax	8	3	2	3	9	9	11
Woking	8	3	1	4	12	13	10
Altrincham	8	3	1	4	6	15	10
Forest Green	8	2	3	3	9	9	9
Canvey Island	8	3	0	5	10	13	9
Scarborough	8	2	4	2	9	12	8
Tamworth	8	1	4	3	7	12	7
Cambridge	8	2	1	5	5	12	7
Southport	8	2	1	5	10	18	7
Burton Albion	8	1	2	5	9	15	5
Crawley Town	8	1	2	5	8	15	5
Aldershot	8	1	2	5	10	18	5

PORTUGUESE SUPER LIGA

Naval 2 Boavista 2, Maritimo 2 Penafiel 2,
 Pacos de Ferreira 2 Academica 1, Rio Ave
 2 Estrela Amadora 1, Vitoria Setubal 1 Gil
 Vicente 0, Benfica 4 Uniao Leiria 0, Braga
 0 Porto 0, Belenenses vs Guimaraes

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Porto	4	3	1	0	7	-2	10

A-League Round 4 Action

